LETTERS OF BOOKS AND SLATES

THE LOVE STORY OF WILLIAM DEWINE REAM AND NORA ELLEN CROCKETT AND THE HISTORY OF THEIR FAMILIES

By Kim Bateman

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INTRODUCTION

Under a king-sized bed in my parents' home in Provo, Utah my sister Kathy Peterson discovered two large built-in drawers containing over 1,300 letters, which had been saved by Nora Crockett Ream, my mother's paternal grandmother. My mother, who is now over 99 years old, was unfortunately no longer able to remember exactly how they got there.

I was already busy turning a trove of her *maternal* grandmother's saved letters into a book on the Oakeys and Sirrines, so Kathy took initial possession of the Ream letters. She was, of course, much too busy to turn them into a book, so after she organized and catalogued them on a spreadsheet, we donated them to the BYU Library to store in their pioneer letter collection. Most of them have not been scanned, so a visit to the library would be required to read them.

When the Oakey/Sirrine book was finished, I tackled a shorter work on the lives of my mom's parents, Wesley Ream and Mary Cooper Sirrine, based on their letters, and then began to feel the call of Nora to look into the Reams and Crocketts. It began to feel like an injustice not to do so, and also sort of asymmetrical, since I had attended to the other line. (I've been told that I am a bit obsessive compulsive.) I feel blessed to have had this treasure of letters fall into my hands. They have led me to love and better understand these people, who provided half of my genome and a large part of my culture even though I have never met them. Writing about the letters has forced me to read them carefully and allows me to share them with my Ream and Crockett cousins. Even though the letters will be preserved, I honestly do not feel that they will ever be read again, certainly not all of them.

When I had organized the Ream letters on a timeline, I realized that there were gaps, which led to a remarkable discovery. There was another cache of 1,044 Ream letters in the possession of the family of my mother's deceased cousin Lee Allen. Lee's son, Sam, had scanned and posted them on a website called dingleream.org, where you can easily read them if you are interested.

So, this book is based on 2,380 letters. Of necessity, I have been selective, picking the best of the letters, and often using only a few lines. I have focused primarily on the letters between Will and Nora, using the original wording whenever possible, to let the letters tell the story in first person. Letters usually spring from separation. They are a hidden benefit of adversity, since Nora and Will spent about half of their lives apart. But of course, they did not write to each other when they were together, and letters they wrote to others were not usually saved. Also, although Nora saved most, Will saved few of their letters, so the conversation in the collection is somewhat one-sided. That information gap can be partly

filled through letters from others that Nora saved and through historical and genealogical sources. Still there are many holes. I will try to alert you when I have employed guesswork.

Most of you readers are probably Will and Nora's descendants. This work is for you, and I hope you enjoy it. And I hope you will forgive my errors. Please feel free to contact me to make corrections and provide additional information if you have it.

Now, a word on my method. I have abandoned the use of quotation marks for the sake of simplicity. Direct quotes are in *italics.* Within quotes, I use ... to indicate words that I have deleted and *(brackets)* where I have added words for clarity, such as spelling out names given only as initials, while striving to keep the exact meaning intact. Also, for ease of reading, I have corrected most of the spelling and punctuation errors in the letters, making exceptions for especially picturesque speech such as the letters of Will's mother, Nancy.

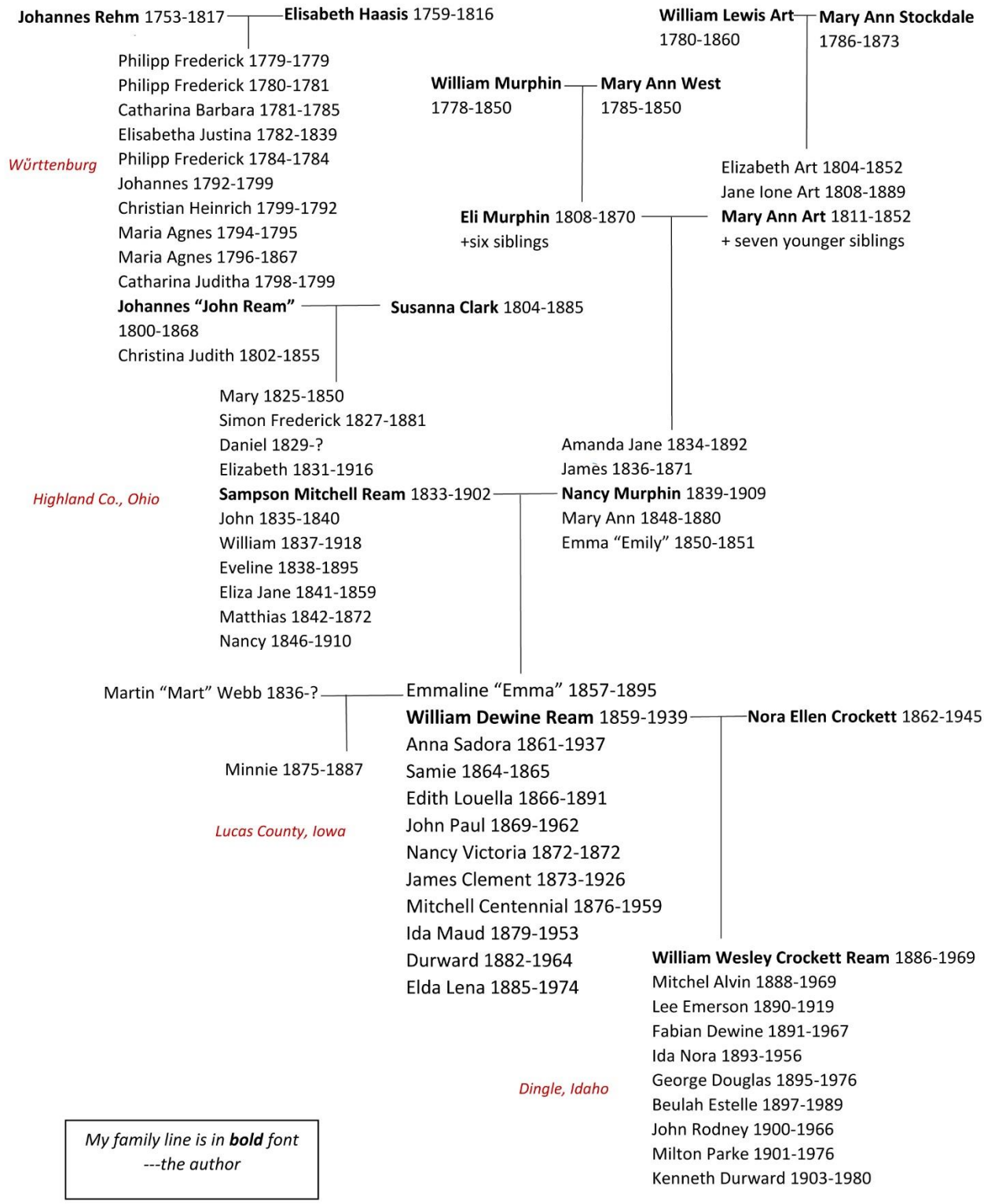
Finally, I want to acknowledge the help of the people who made this possible, first to Nora, the prime collector of the letters. My mother's cousin Beulah Lee Jones, Ida's daughter, found a cache of these letters while cleaning out the attic of Arcadia, the Ream mansion. Thanks to Lee Allen, his wife Silja and son Sam, my mother, Helen Ream Bateman, and Kathy Peterson for organizing and keeping the letters safe and to Kathy for drawing the Bear Lake/Cache Valley map. Thanks also to Joan Bunderson and Lee Ream for contributing valuable information, and to Joan, Kathy, and my wife Linda for editing and proofreading, especially to Linda for her patience, giving me up for months to the project.

Kim Bateman

December 2019

FAMILY TREES

Ream Pedigree



*My family line is in **bold** font*
---the author

Crockett Pedigree

James Crockett 1777-1851 — **Elizabeth Brackett** 1777-1849

James 1803-1863
"Boy" 1805-

Lydia Young 1812-1888 — **David Crockett** 1806-1876 — Lucinda Sophronia Ellsworth 1834-1915

Eliza 1808-1830
Thomas 1811-1886
Roxanna 1813-1895
Oliver 1816-1890
Catherine 1818-1872

William Alfred 1858-1932
Lucinda Lydia 1859-1879
Lydia Luthenia 1860-1878
Celestia Adelaide 1864-1922
Lucinda Effie 1869-1918
Athenia 1875-

See next page for Sophia's ancestry

Mary Sophia Reed 1833-1899 — **Alvin David Crockett** 1831-1902 — Annie Naomi Peel 1847-1898

Sabra Ann 1833-1900
Roxanna Catherine 1834-1900
Malinda Melissa 1836-1895
Lucinda Colehill 1838-1910
Edwin Madsen 1839-1914
Wilford Woodruff 1841-1907
Debora Athenia 1844-1849
Barbara Young 1845-1899
David William 1848-1873
Norman Victor 1850-1918
Emer 1852-1920
Enos Samuel 1855-1857
Lydia Mangum 1856-1919 (adopted)

Annie Althea 1867-1950
Barbara Wooster Young 1969-1889
Delia Sophia 1871-1960
John Alvin 1874-1948
Fred Waldo 1876-1938
Ella Sabra 1879-1956

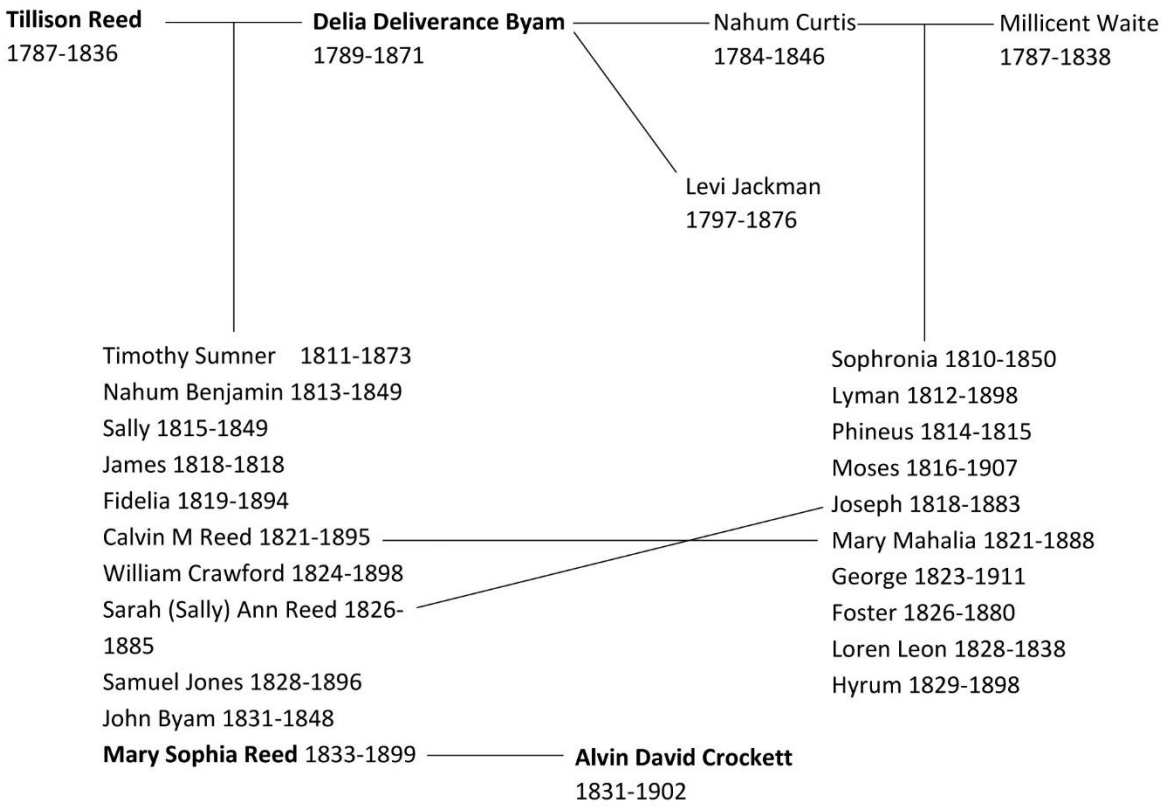
Mary Sophia 1853-1908
Alvin David 1854-1943
Ozro Ozias 1856-1930
Lydia Lovera 1858-1930
Delia Ann 1860-1926

Nora Ellen Crockett 1862-1945 — **William Dewine Ream** 1859-1939

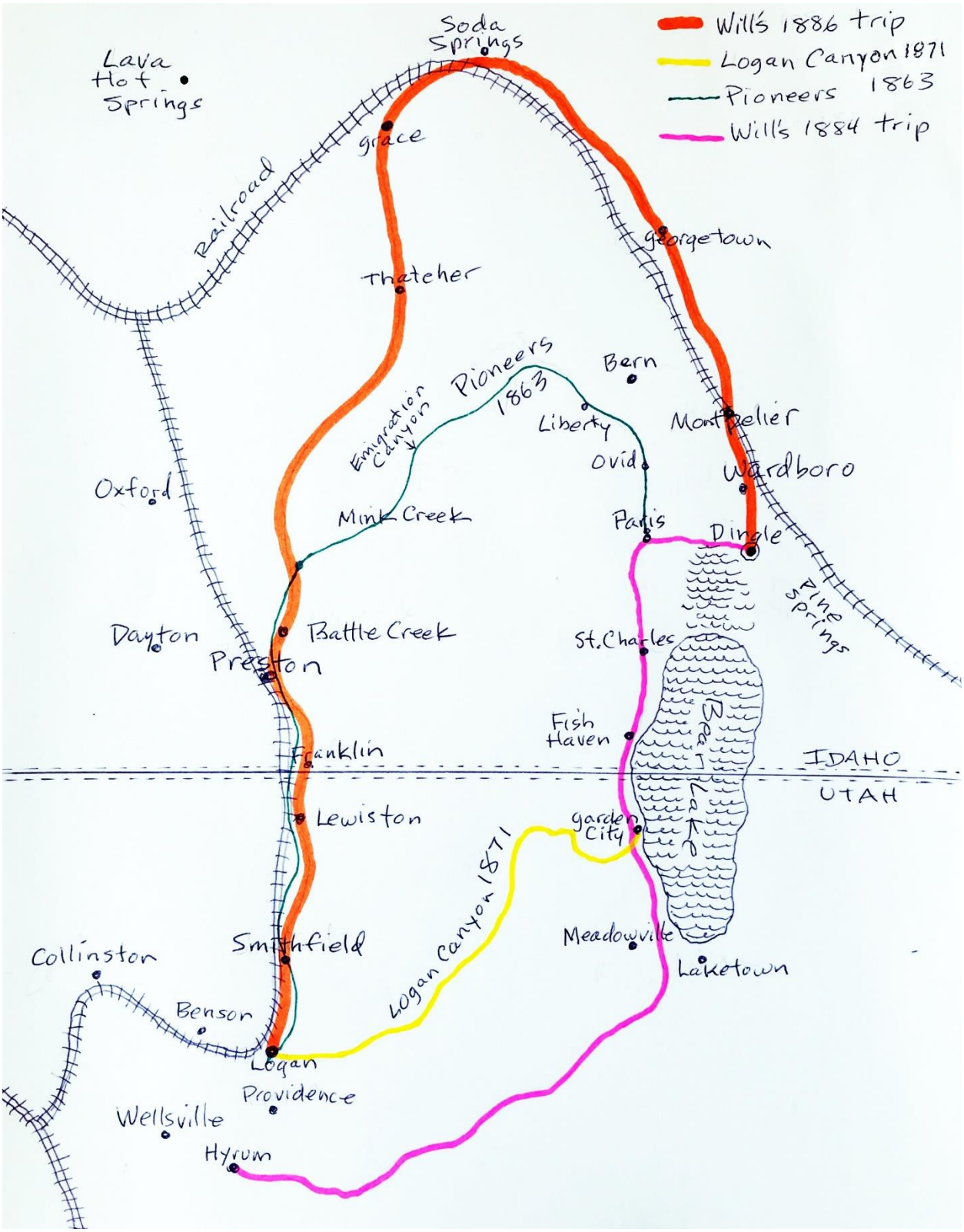
George Emer 1865-1940
William Joseph 1868-1934
Roxanna Catherine 1870-1944
Hyrum Enos 1873-1935
Frank Waldon 1874-1875
Henry Wallace 1876-1922

See previous page for descendants

Reed Pedigree



MAP



Cache Valley and Bear Lake Valley, 1863-1886

PART ONE: WILL AND NORA

PROLOGUE: THE LETTER FROM DINGLE DELL RANCH

Dingle Dell Ranch

Jan. the 23 1883 (sic)[1]

Miss N.E. Crockett

Dear Nora

Just received your long and welcome letter today. Was pleased to hear from you as ever. I was to Montpelier today but forgot to get a bottle of ink so I will have to use a pencil. I thought I had several bottles in my trunk, but when I came to look I found none. I have a very bad headache tonight and can't write you a very long letter but will give you a brief synopsis since last Friday morning. On the morning I speak of I went up in the mountains to find a band of Frank's horses. The snow was very deep and I had never been up there before, so it was a big undertaking, but thinking myself equal to the occasion I started, taking a little Danish man along to help drive. After preparing a luncheon I took the rifle and a pair of field glasses. The rifle I thought would come handy in case we should see some deer, and the glasses to look from one mountain to another to see if we could see any horses and tell them without going to them.

After all was ready we began the ascent of the mountain back of the house and traveled southward about three miles, which brought us to the summit east of the north end of Bear Lake, traveling was very slow on account of the snow being so deep and the mountain so high. We made a little over one mile an hour. Some places the snow was 40 to 50 ft.[2] deep. On reaching the top I brought the glasses to my eyes and beheld two horses a small distance to our right. They were not the ones we were looking for but we thought there might be more over the hill and went to see. When we got there we could not see any others and were about turning back when we happened to cast out eyes down in a small ravine and to our surprise, we beheld the object to our search.

We ate our lunch, caught (our own) horses (two of them) and by the time we were ready to start down the mountain it was two o'clock. I mounted one of them and was leading the other and thinking to save time by taking a short cut. I led out in a different direction to what we came up. We had not gone very far when we came into a snow drift up to the horses' backs. I being on the lead horse, it had to break the way. When it got to where the snow was deep it began to flounder and I jumped off, falling under the feet of the horse I was riding. I was covered over entirely for a moment and I thought I was in for a benefit. All of the herd was

[1] Although this letter was dated 1883, it must have been written January 23, 1884, since Will first met Nora on June 4, 1883. He must have absent mindedly made the common error of forgetting he was in a new year.
[2] I double checked the original letter. He did actually write "ft." I think he must have meant 40 to 50 *inches*.

coming down in a blind manner, but gaining my feet, I managed to mount again and turn my horse around to climb the hill. I had more than one...such experiment before we got down, but meeting with no very bad accident we got in in the middle of the afternoon. After stabling them I spent the remainder of the day reading and writing.

On Saturday I hitched up to the sleigh and went to Cottonwood. Returned by sundown spent the night reading and writing. In fact all of the evening I have been busy in that way. Sunday all day I was out of the house but once or twice. Monday I went to the river and cut and hauled willows all day and hurt my horse, so I cannot use him for some time I am afraid. Today I was to Montpelier and had a good time. I have a few good friends that I must go and see every time I go over.

I got three letters. Yours was one and the P.O.M (Post Office Master) was not going to let me have it on account of there was due 2 cents.

I am going to Paris tomorrow and want to post this letter and you will have to excuse bad writing for I want to finish tonight. You must burn all of the letters I write you in pencil for they look so horrible if you keep them long. KB--I am so glad she didn't burn them.

Nora I am reading the Book of Mormon and making a study of it, and in connection with it I am reading the Roman history (The Decline and Fall) by Gibbons. So far I see a wide difference in them. There is a pig in the fence somewhere. Maybe I can find a way to get it out and maybe I cannot. I can tell better when I get through with them. The two together make a very interesting study.

Speaking of the Book of Mormon put me in mind of the paper you spoke of getting and you thought it come from me. I am sorry to say that you will have to give your thanks to someone else, for I know nothing about the paper you speak of and am not worthy of your thanks.

Well Nora, the Mr. Craige you speak of, I know but very little about him. I got a letter from Chicago today stating that they were well pleased with my meeting with the Messrs. H.S. Craige, Wallace, W.H. Sentell and Mr. Thomas. They said that they were the best men they had and I believe it. I have never met with four as intelligent as they were and am sorry that I did not go to Frisco with them.

Mr. Craige answers to the description of Miss T___ exactly, and he may be the Mr. St. C___ you speak of for all I know. I have no proof that he was not. He told me he had been in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa the last few years, but for all of that he might have kept up a correspondence with Miss T___.

At any rate his tale seems more sound to me than Miss T___ does. He said that he was on the street with Miss Haws when he saw you and asked T____ who you was and she told him and said that Mr. Ream was engaged to her. She said that you was her cousin +++

He also said that he was out walking one night with her when her brother came up and was going to take her home. They had a few words and Mr. C___ told Mr. H___ that Miss T___ was of age and she could go as she pleased <u>if she wanted</u> to go with him <u>all right</u>. If not he had better not touch him if he did not want to get hurt +++ When he went to see Miss T___ again Mr. Haws run him off +++

And many other little incidents he told me of that was true that no one but you and I should have known so there must be some truth in Mr. C___.

I was surprised at the information he gave me. He had found out more in Logan in his short stay than I had all of the time I was there.

Well I could branch out farther but I don't think it necessary and will drop the subject unless you want to know more about what was said. There is one thing certain, that he was in Logan and knows Ticia and she knows him. What passed between them has nothing to do with us, only it has taken the Territory out of my hands and given it to another. That I consider a big loss financially and no good that she (was the) one that told it, either. It is an established fact that he knew that I was engaged and wrote it to Chicago. By whom he found out I can't tell only what he said, which looks suspicious... (Last part is missing).

Well, are you as confused as I was at this letter? I just spent several hours on it and still don't have it all figured out. But there's enough in here to write a book, and that is just what I intend to do. Let me break it down for you.

This is one of over 2,300 letters that Nora Ellen Crockett saved, and of those it is the first that was written by William Dewine Ream. He wrote the lion's share of the rest of the collection. One may infer that this is not the first that he had ever written to her. Apparently he was only updating her on the happenings *since last Friday morning.* And she had written to him at least once, having left him on the hook for part of the postage due on the most recent one. He was pleased with that letter *as ever,* so it was not her first either. But he seems not to have been away very long from her.

Will was writing from Dingle Dell Ranch. He was in the house that the neighbors called *Larson's folly* because Frank Larson was a bachelor, and yet had built the biggest house in town, a frame house with siding and two stories. The joke was on them, though, because Frank rented it out to the George Albert Smith Bird family and then boarded with them, freeing himself from cooking and housework, and making a little money besides. From the context of the letter it is clear that Nora was already acquainted with Frank, who had recently lived a year or two in Logan giving dance lessons and selling treadle sewing machines.

Will's breathless account of his risky pursuit of Frank's horses reveals his self-confidence. He was exploring his new surroundings, unaware that his adventure had taken him to a place he would later know as Merkley Mountain.

Will and Nora's 2nd great grandson Scout Bunderson, age 11, on Merkley Mountain

We learn from this letter that he and Nora were engaged to be married. The wedding would wait for nearly two more years. That he was studying the Book of Mormon suggests that he was investigating Nora's religion, possibly as a requirement for her consent or for her father's consent to their union. And he was studying it alongside Gibbons' classic text on the fall of the Roman Empire. What an idea. I don't know how he got those seven volumes into his trunk, let alone studied them. He was either putting on for Nora, or he was a serious scholar. I suspect both were true. This is a hint about his livelihood. He was a traveling book salesman, and he was probably good at that. This letter gives a hint at what we will find in many future letters. Will was an extrovert, who made friends and sometimes enemies wherever he went, and he went to practically every town in northern Utah and southern Idaho.

The meeting with the four gentlemen that pleased his bosses in Chicago was probably with co-workers or supervisors, who were dividing up the sales territory in states as far away as California. One of them, Mr. Craige, had been the subject of Nora's most recent letter. He was the Mr. C___ who was consorting with Miss T___ in Logan. I don't know why Will did not want to spell out the names. Perhaps that was part of the letter writing etiquette of the time meant to provide confidentiality. Well, he didn't fool me—I cracked his code. He left just enough clues.

Ticia and Nathaniel Haws

Miss T___ is the same person as Ticia, whose name Will let slip in his last paragraph. Since Will called her brother by his last name of Haws, it follows that she was a Haws, too. By looking through the 1880 census in Logan, I discovered to my delight, that a Celia Flaticia Haws was living that year in Logan. She had a brother named Nathaniel, probably the person who ran Mr. Craige off, when he had tried to see Ticia a second time. Little brother was a bookkeeper—but evidently a tough kid nonetheless.

Their mother was Lucinda Crockett, Alvin Crockett's little sister, who had walked with him and their parents' family from the Fox Islands to Utah four decades earlier. So, Tecia was Nora's first cousin, and had spilled the beans to Will's supervisor about their engagement, which Will felt would lead to a diminution of his sales territory. I just wish that I could have done more to identify Mr. Craige.

Well, I plan to tell the story of the lifelong romance of Will and Nora through letters. You won't have to read all 2,300 of them like I did, (okay, I just skimmed through some of them), but you will get a heavy dose of them. My idea is that with a close reading of their writing we may get to know these two people in a new way and get their history more or less from a first person perspective. In the next few chapters I plan to tell as much as I can about their lives previous to the above letter. Since few letters from that time are available, you will have to settle for ordinary story telling based on the few facts that I have and the inferences I can make from census and other historical records. It turns out that their mutual acquaintance, Frank Larsen, played a huge role in this story, so I'll give his history too, in fact I'll begin with it. I hope you'll see why as we go forward.

Oh, and before we begin, let me say a few words about 19th century letters. Back then social letter writing was a new, developing technology. The first pre-paid postage stamp was issued in Britain in 1842. The U.S. Postal Service was born in August 1842, and the first standardized stamps were issued in 1847. Letter writing had become more common with the advent of rail service in the 1830's, but not so much in the west until the transcontinental railroad was completed. Many people felt they didn't know how to write letters—there were many primers and instruction books to teach how. About 400 were published in the U.S. alone in the 19th century such as *How to Write Letters* by J. Willis Westlake in 1876. There were instructions such as:

Address your correspondent by his/her title, not the first name. Capitalize the relationship such as Beloved Brother or Honored Sir, etc. You might begin with "I take my pen in hand" or "I take this opportunity to answer."

And there was an unspoken etiquette involved, especially between unmarried people. For example, people were often shy about writing an initial letter, not wanting to be seen as forward. It was considered rude to send a second letter if the first was not answered promptly, as lack of promptness was considered a tacit message of lack of interest. Some people read subtle messages into the position of the stamp.[3] Letters of mourning were edged in black. People often began by apologizing, such as making excuses for their bad writing, the poor quality of the ink or paper. There was endless talk of crops, weather,

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[3] Here's the code. Upside down: I love you. Sideways, head right: Love and kisses. Sideways, head left: I'll never leave you. Diagonal to the right: Marry Me? Diagonal to the left: Yes, I'll marry you.

health of everyone, and how long it had been since the last letter. Paper was scarce, and usually every bit was used, often by writing upside down or sideways in the margins.

But by 1883 letters were commonplace (as you will see, Will and Nora often wrote to each other more than once a week) and permitted intimate relationships over distances, which was good, since Will and Nora spent a big part of their lives apart.

FRANK LARSEN

The first two Mormons to enter the Salt Lake Valley with the vanguard party of pioneers in 1847 were Erastus Snow and the man who had converted him to the church, Orson Pratt. A year and a half later, Snow was called to the quorum of the twelve apostles. He was more or less still getting his feet wet as an apostle, when in the very next general conference that fall, Brigham Young called him to be the first missionary to Denmark. He and another missionary arrived in Copenhagen in 1850 and began converting Danes to Mormonism.

After several tumultuous years of resistance and persecution, the apostle Ezra T. Benson was able to address a thousand new Danish members of the church in the Copenhagen coliseum without any negative incident in the summer of 1856. That was a turning point. For the next three decades Denmark was surpassed only by Great Britain in Mormon foreign converts and immigrants to Utah.[4]

On August 25, 1857 a young Lutheran named Hans Frederik Larsen was baptized a Mormon in the village of Herringlose[5] about eight miles from Roskilde where the Viking Ship Museum now stands, and about 18 miles east of Copenhagen.

Denmark had a near record 1,300 converts that year. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had grown to nine conferences and 106 organized branches in Denmark according to missionary reports back to Salt Lake City, penetrating to the *smallest hamlets.* According to the biography of Hans Frederik's wife Ane, she was baptized at the same time that he was. However, only the record of his ordinance has survived.[6] They had three children: a daughter named Ane, age ten, a son named Lars, age seven, and a daughter named Maren, age five. In the census in Herringlose for the year 1860, Hans was listed as a 42 year old Mormon from the town of Slagelse, which lay about 45 miles to the east. His children were all listed as *unbaptized,* suggesting that Hans Frederik may have already been disaffected from the Lutherans ten years before he joined the Mormon Church, since his oldest daughter, who had been born in 1847, had never been christened.

The next year the children Maren and Lars were baptized as Mormons on the same day, July 11, 1861. She was eight and he was eleven. I could find no record that 14 year old Ane was baptized in Denmark.[7] Then on April 30, 1865 another child was born to the Larsens named Kirstine. Her Lutheran birth record stated that she was a Mormon and unbaptized.

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[4] Marius Aldrid Christensen, *History of the Danish Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1850-1964,* Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.
[5] The current population of Herringlose is 402 people.
[6] She was baptized posthumously in 1988 in Seattle.
[7] The daughter Ane was also baptized in 1988.

When Kirstine was only five months old, Hans Frederik died of pneumonia. The Lutheran record of his death was translated as *squatter in Herringlose, 47 years old, Mormon.* I looked up the Danish word for *squatter*, a pejorative term in English. It also translates as *homesteader*. According to his wife's biography, Hans Frederick was a carpenter, who built his family a white frame house with a white picket fence around it.

The Mormon Pioneer Travel Database shows a woman named Anne Marie Larsen in the Joseph S. Rawlins Wagon Company of 1866 traveling from Omaha to Salt Lake City with a 16 year old son identified as Lars F., an 11 year old daughter named Maren, and a one-year-old named Sarah. They had sailed from Hamburg on May 25, 1866 on the ship Kenilworth to New York harbor, arriving July 16th. This information may have come from the ship's passenger list, which gives the same three names. From the personal journals of some of the ship's passengers, there were five accounts of children dying during the crossing on five different days. Only one of them was named, an infant named Sarah Larsen, who died on board July 12, 1866 four days before landing in New York.

The names and ages of the woman and the two older children on the passenger list match the family of the deceased Hans Frederick Larsen. The infant matches in age, but not in the name Sarah, but I believe this was the baby Kirstine. Her mother's biography states that Kirstine died three days before landing. The oldest daughter, Ane, who would have been 19 years old when her family left, was not listed as a member of the family in the ship's passenger list nor in the wagon company. When I turned back to the ship's register, of the 49 Larsens among the 665 passengers on the Kenilworth, I found ten named Ane or Anne. One of these was a 19-year-old from *Harrinton* which may be an English corruption of Herringlose. She was described as a spinster and was not identified with any family. I could find no one in the Rawlings wagon company that matched her. I believe that this 19 year old Ane on the ship was the oldest child of Hans Frederik. Her mother's biography indicates that Ane had been added to the passenger list at the last moment before launch, when the church agreed to pay her fare. Since her name was not listed in the wagon company and she had apparently not been baptized a Mormon, I assumed that she may have declined to go west with the family and stayed in New York or Omaha. I have not been able to find a record of her in Salt Lake City, but her mother's biography states that she arrived in Utah and married there.

It is hard to track down Danes that go to America, especially if you don't speak Danish. There is the patronymic naming system to deal with and so many people with the same last name. To make matters worse, this family apparently anglicized their names once they reached America. Ane Jorgensdatter Larsen became Anna or Annie Larsen. Maren became Mary Larson (with an "o.") And Lars became Frank Larsen.

According to Annie's biography, the family settled on a plot of land in Salt Lake City where the Holy Cross Hospital was later built. Frank and some friends built a house and furniture. Frank Larsen turned up in the Salt Lake Ninth Ward in the 1870 census. He was 19 years old and living with his mother, Annie Larson, their last name this time spelled with an "o." He was working in a saw mill. I found Mary living in the Salt Lake 13th ward with Benjamin Stringham, a teamster from Illinois, his wife Annie, and their seven year old son. Mary was 17 and working as a domestic servant.

On February 11, 1873 Frank Larsen ran an advertisement in the *Salt Lake Tribune* for *Frank's Dancing Academy* on first south. There was a gent's class on Wednesday evenings, ladies' and children's classes on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, and a co-ed class for ladies and gentlemen on Tuesday and Saturday evenings. Frank also offered music for parties by *the best quadrille band in the city*. That ad ran weekly for a month. Frank was teaching dancing with a partner named Harry Cheales, who also worked at the Globe Bakery. That year Harry met a 16 year old girl named Mary Caroline Petersen, an orphaned immigrant from Denmark who had been working as a servant for Brigham Young. They had met at a dance and were married the next year.

On February 18, 1875 Frank's sister Mary Larson, then 22 years old, married a non-Mormon man with the unlikely name of Joseph M. Smith in West Jordan. They had a little boy a year later, whom they named Joseph Franklin Smith.

Mary and Harry Cheales

The *Salt Lake Herald-Republican* ran an announcement on December 1, 1875 that Frank Larson would open his dancing school in Clawson's Hall for the winter season with a ball that Saturday evening. He would teach dancing on Tuesdays and Saturdays with soirees every Thursday night. It appears that the dance school fell apart when Frank's friends, the Cheales', moved to Ogden to sell Howe sewing machines and where they had a premature stillborn boy sometime around mid-1876 and then a little girl named May on April 10, 1876. Soon after that they moved to Cottonwood, Bear Lake County, Idaho to begin a homestead.

I am not sure exactly when Frank Larsen himself moved to Cottonwood, soon to be called Dingle Dell.[8] I think he moved there to be with Harry and Mary Cheales, seeing an opportunity to homestead as his father had done in Herringlose. About that time, Joseph

[8] Around 1892 the name Dingle Dell was simplified to Dingle when the post office opened there. From here on, I will refer to Cottonwood or Dingle Dell as Dingle, except when quoting from a letter or referring to Frank's place, which he named Dingle Dell Ranch.

and Frank's sister Mary Smith decided to join the Black Hills gold rush and moved to Deadwood City, Dakota Territory. This gold rush had been started by Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer's 1,000 men two years earlier in 1874 and eventually led to the famous massacre at the Little Bighorn, which happened in June of that very summer. With his sister gone, Frank had little option but to take their mother Annie to Idaho with him.

Tragically, Joseph M. Smith, the newly minted gold miner, contracted "the black smallpox" and died around the end of 1876 in Dakota Territory, leaving Mary a young widow with an infant boy. The following summer she and her baby moved to Dingle to live with Frank and their mother Annie.

The summer of 1877, Frank was still living in Dingle, but also had business connections to Logan. On July 19, 1877 a man named Frank Larson of Bear Lake County sold a frame building 28 x 22 feet on the NE corner, south half of lot 8 block 19, plat (a) Logan city survey, with the associated stabling and canals to Thomas B. Cardon for $600.

Incidentally, that September far away in Iowa, Will Ream's older sister Emma divorced her husband Mart Webb for the first time. Their lives would later become tragically intertwined with Frank Larsen's. Stay tuned.

That fall William Passey was appointed to be the presiding elder of the Dingle Branch in the Bear Lake Stake in Paris. Dingle was becoming a village.

On February 27, 1878, Eveline Cheales was born to Harry and Mary Cheales in Dingle. In June, 1878 Frank Larsen was looking for a girlfriend. He began to court an eligible young woman named Sarah Oakey, whose family homestead was on the west side of the Dingle road across from his own and slightly north. She was 24 years old and had moved to Cottonwood five years previously from Paris, Idaho with her two brothers. They were finishing a more permanent cabin, hoping to get their mother to move across the valley to live with them. Sarah had a boyfriend named George Sirrine, but he had gone in 1877 to settle Mesa, Arizona with his family, and was not expected back to Idaho until winter.

Sarah Oakey

Sarah kept a daily journal that year, and Frank's name appears in it frequently during June and July, 1878. Here are some samples:

May 29—Mother went home (to Paris) today with Fred Sparks. Frank brought her some raddishes. I sent them by Fred (Sarah's older brother)*. He went at night.*

June 1-- Today is Sunday. It is raining and storming. We cannot go to meeting. Cheels come. She (Mary Cheales) *went on the Island.*[9] *Sparks come in the (wagon) after Frank called at night.*

June 7--Hyrum went to Grimmetts. Frank called at night.

June 8—Fred come home today. He did not bring any poles. Frank come with him. Fred has gone to Hyrum Grimmetts.

June 9—Sunday no meeting. Frank was here all morning. Sparks called to see us. Fred took me ridding today. We went first to Cheels then to Larsons and Ole's, then up to cherry glade and up the canon and come over the hill home again.

June 15—Mother is better. They are getting ready to go to the City. Fred has washed his harness today. He got Grimmetts butter worker for me to work the butter. Frank called tonight. They are going to the Lake.

June 16-- Fred went to get the horses to go. We went riding again this time with Frank and Meery. This would be Mary Larson Smith, Frank's sister. *Mother and Fred started while Chris was showing us the set lines. We had a nice ride. Come back and took Miss Young. We went down the outlet to the other lake. It was beautiful scenery. Hyrum* (Sarah's younger brother) *zoomed coming back, took the dog in. Frank took Miss Young to St. Charles and got his mother. Hyrum saddled Madge and come home. He got there before sun down. I staid at the outlet and fished. I caught three. It was nearly dark when Frank come back. He staid and fished a little while and then we started home. The wind blew very cold. It was after ten when we got to Larsons and eleven when I got home. Hyrum was here he had done milking. I strained the milk and went to bed. I was so tiered I could not sleep. Frank's mother was in Dingle by then.*

July 5-- Hyrum and I started to Paris with George (I think this George is a horse) *and Gray when we got to the first mud the horses got down so they could not pull the wagon out. Two men came along they tried to help us but they could not so Hyrum started back home. He met Frank going over so he said I might ride with him and Hyrum ride one of the horses we started in Frank broke his single tree. After a little more trouble we got to Paris and went to the dance. Fred came over and brought along George. The boys come back and got the waggon.*

July 6--I come home with Frank around by Ovid, called at Bells

July 7-- the girls called on there way to Larsons

[9] The Island is formed by a split in the Bear River. It was the site of the original settlement in the Bear Lake valley, where Peg Leg Smith had his trading post on the Oregon Trail in 1848. It is just north of Dingle.

July 21-- we had dinner in there. Jo. Willcox called. Frank called before he started (for Salt Lake). *We went down with the boys for a load of hay.*

The day that Frank left Dingle for Salt Lake City, there was an ad in the Salt Lake Tribune that explained his trip. He had an important gig. Here it is:

Celebration July 24, 1878

At Lindsey's Gardens amusements of all descriptions during the day. Frank Larsen, the well-known dancing master will superintend the dancing floor in the evening. Take the Twentieth Ward street car. Admission free. CHAS L THOMSEN, Prop.

There were no more mentions of Frank in Sarah's journal that year—the fling was over. Her boyfriend George Sirrine returned in October and they were soon engaged. I don't know when Frank came back to Dingle. It may have been significantly later. Here's what I do know.

On September 14, 1878 tragedy struck Frank's friends in Dingle, the Cheales. Their baby Eveline became sick. Then she died while Harry was away seeking a doctor for medical help, leaving Mary alone in the cabin for many hours with the corpse, terrified and grieving. Mary Cheales had been so overwhelmed, she insisted that she could never live in that house again, and the couple, along with their surviving three year old daughter May, moved hurriedly to Park City. George and Sarah agreed to watch out for their house and take care of their animals for a share of the money when they were able to sell them.

Mary Larson

David Crockett Stuart

It seems possible that Frank stayed away from Dingle for an extended period at that time, especially since his friend Harry had moved away. His sister, Mary Larson Smith, was being courted by a colorful widower in Wardboro, just a couple miles north of Dingle. He was a very interesting character named David Crockett Stuart,[10] a civil war veteran in the Alabama Cavalry with plenty of war stories, who had moved to Idaho seeking his fortune in 1872, even before the Oakeys had arrived in Cottonwood, later called Dingle. He was a freighter, and likely used the nearby road, the Oregon Trail, in his business. They were married on October 13, 1879. If Frank had not returned by then, their mother could have been supported by Mary and her new husband.

[10] He was no relation at all to Nora Crockett, Will's future wife.

Frank was back at the latest by June 1880, when his name appeared in the U.S. census of Dingle. He was living with his mother just a few doors down the road from Sarah, who was now married to George Sirrine.[11] In September 1880, Sarah received a letter from Mary Cheales, who had settled with her husband in Park City, where he had resumed his former occupation as a baker, working for the railroad. She invited her friend Sarah to pay them a visit. In her reply Sarah voiced concern that a suspicious character seemed to be squatting in the Cheales' abandoned house next door. In response, Harry Cheales wrote to Sarah's husband with an unexpected, generous offer, which would considerably improve the Sirrines' life.

Nov 26, 1880

Dear Friend

I can see from Sarah's letter that you were thinking about getting my house this winter. You can have it. The "strange looking man" she saw in it was my friend Frank, to whom I gave permission to stay while he was finishing up his hay. Here's a proposition: I'll give you the place as it stands. If you sell it, give me half of what you make. If you don't take it some son of a gun will jump it. I don't ever expect to live in Bear Lake again. I'll send you a receipt as if you had bought it. Keep it quiet so they don't learn anything about it. I hope you're in it for a merry Christmas.

That interesting letter raises some questions. Why did Frank need to stay in the Cheales' house when he had his own? Why did Sarah not recognize him? Maybe she didn't recognize him because she believed him to be living somewhere else. I wonder if Frank had leased his house to another family and there was no room there when he returned to do the haying. If so, I don't think it was the Bird family. They probably did not come to Dingle until after their daughter Mary Ann was born in Mendon, Cache Valley, Utah on July 7, 1881.

Just as promised, on January 4, 1881 Mary and Harry Cheales sent a handwritten document on lined paper relinquishing all claim to the "Ranch" in Cottonwood (Dingle) consisting of the house, 320 acres of land, and all improvements, to George and Sarah Sirrine.

Frank was back in the dance instruction business, but no longer in Salt Lake. On January 20, 1882 the *Logan Leader* ran a four column inch article entitled *Anything Worth Doing is Worth Doing Well*, which read like what I would call an infomercial, ending with the announcement that Frank Larsen was opening a dancing school in Logan the very next day.

[11] Sarah and George Sirrine's oldest daughter Mamie later became Will and Nora Ream's first daughter-in-law when she married their son Wesley in 1914.

Another interesting infomercial appeared in the Utah Journal in Logan for three consecutive weeks the following September. This one was twice as long and consisted of a tortured argument that began by pointing out the futility of arguing endlessly on controversial topics such as temperance, and ended with the suggestion that people should instead be talking about treadle sewing machines, a topic of value that everyone can agree upon. Then followed this statement: *Orders sent to FRANK LARSEN, LOGAN will receive prompt attention.* Just like his friend Harry Cheales had done, Frank was selling sewing machines. And he was still in Logan.

Frank Larsen lived in Logan for all of 1882 and had possibly been there as early as mid-1880. Somehow he had poisoned his friendship with the Cheales family. In June 1882, Mary Cheales wrote to her friend Sarah Oakey Sirrine that Frank was in Logan where Mary's sister lived, *playing smart. I hope you never let him take possession of the house—I'd rather you pull the place down for firewood.* There in Logan he undoubtedly met Nora Crockett and William Dewine Ream and became entwined in their lives.

NORA CROCKETT 1862-1882

Mary Sophia Reed

Nora Ellen Crockett was born to Alvin Crockett and Mary Sophia[12] Reed, on December 28, 1862 in a three room cabin in the northeast part of Logan, which had been established just two years earlier. Nora was the sixth of twelve children, with three older sisters and two older brothers. Her oldest sister, also named Mary Sophia, was nine. Alvin's parents, David and Lydia Crockett, had brought most of their married children from Payson and were not through having children themselves. All told, including in-laws, the Crockett family in Logan added up to around 72 persons, so Nora was surrounded with many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Amazingly, Alvin Crockett's mother Lydia produced 14 children including one adopted daughter. Nora actually had two aunts who were younger than she was.

Three days after Nora's birth, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

When Nora was eight months old, Brigham Young and the quorum of the twelve met in Logan on August 23rd at the home of Ezra T. Benson, where the prophet called Charles C. Rich to explore the Bear Lake area for settlement. That Sunday Wilford Woodruff gave a prophetic talk about Logan, which presaged the later announcement of the Logan Temple. By September 15, 1863, the first company of 32 settlers set out from Franklin, Utah (later Idaho) for Bear Lake, accompanied by a company of Shoshones sent by Chief Sashakie as hunters. Thomas Sleight's group of 13 followed shortly behind. By October 6th, Elder Rich had returned and was reporting on the trip in General Conference in Salt Lake. He returned to Cache Valley that fall looking for another route with his son Joseph Rich, Jefferson Hunt, Lorin Farr, and three others via an Indian trail through Hyrum, Blacksmith Fork, and Round Valley to the south end of Bear Lake.

William B. Preston

Although the county had been organized, the towns up to this time had been run entirely through the Mormon bishops. Logan was not incorporated as a town until 1866, along with several other Cache County communities. In Logan's first election, which was held March 5, 1866, Alvin Crockett was elected mayor, reportedly at a salary of $2. He presided over the first city council meeting, which was held at the main Benson home. John Paul was elected captain of the city police. Alvin

[12] Mary Sophia Reed's first daughter was also named Mary Sophia. To avoid confusion I will try to refer to the mother as Sophia, the name used on her headstone, and to her daughter as Mary.

served as mayor of Logan for two terms. His replacement in 1870 was William Preston.[13]

Annie Peel

On November 28, 1866, Alvin was sealed to a second wife in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. She was Annie Naomi Peel, a nineteen year old immigrant from West Yorkshire, England. The Peels had crossed the plains in the infamous Martin Handcart Company when Annie was six. When the family was running out of food, her father John Peel gave all his portions to Annie and her sister Marintha, who was only three. He died of starvation at Devil's Gate, leaving his wife Hannah to complete the trip without him. She remarried after arrival at Salt Lake City but was widowed a second time before she moved with her two teenage daughters to Logan when Marintha got a job teaching school in Wellsville. Alvin built a house for his new wife Annie near the college, where she helped to support her family by taking in college students as boarders. One family history says that the Crockett family moved out of the cabin in 1868, which makes sense to me.

At the time of Alvin's second marriage, Nora was just short of three years old and her oldest sibling, Mary, was 13.

Delia Curtis

In the 1870 census for Logan on July 22nd, Alvin Crockett was living in the part of Logan called "the island" in Ward 1 on Crockett Lane. He was counted with Sophia's family. All of their kids were still at home. Mary, age 17, was still single. Nora was seven. Next door was Annie (Naomi) with 2 kids, Annie A. age two and Barbara M., seven months old. Nora's 81 year old grandmother Delia Byam Reed Curtis was boarding with Annie. She had come to Logan to spend the last years of her life in the care of her youngest daughter, Sophia. Delia was the only member of the Reed family to come to Logan. Her husband, Levi Jackman, was living with a much younger wife, Lucinda, in Salem. Delia would die a year later in Logan on April 18th.

When Nora was nine, her father Alvin was called at the age of 40 on a mission to Vinalhaven, Maine, where he was born. He was set apart November 29, 1871. He did not

[13] William Preston had been baptized a Mormon in 1857 in California and was serving as a missionary in Northern California when the saints were called back to Utah. As a captain of 50 in the wagon train, he met and soon married Harriet Thatcher, daughter of Hezekiah Thatcher, who had grown rich in the California gold fields by establishing a store and hotel in Sacramento. Upon arrival in Utah, Thatcher was said to be the wealthiest man in the state except Brigham Young. The Thatchers, including Preston felt they were received unkindly by the residents of Payson, finding it impossible to buy adequate land for their families, and so took their large family and treasure to Logan at about the same time as the Crocketts. Preston and two of the Thatcher boys actually arrived ahead of most of the family in September 1859, building the seventh log house in Logan. William Preston became the bishop in Logan, later served as a member of the state legislature, and eventually was called to be the fourth presiding bishop of the LDS church. The town of Preston was named for him.

have a lot of baptismal success—evidently Wilford Woodruff and William Hyde had already found all the remnants of the House of Israel there. The missionary department registry does not give his return date, but it must have been early. Nora's younger brother Hyrum Enos Crockett was born April 6, 1873, so if the baby was born at full term, Alvin must have been back in Logan by July of 1872.

In 1872 Alvin Crockett was elected one of the three original Logan school trustees. He was back on the job of sheriff when his younger brother David William Crockett was shot dead on Valentine's Day, 1873 by Ezra T. Benson's son Charley in a drunken argument. Charley was lynched by a mob on Main Street a few days later. The lynching was Tuesday morning, February 18th. It is not clear whether it was Sheriff Crockett or one of his deputies that had been overpowered by the mob when they broke into the jail to seize the murderer. The inquest stated*, Charles A. Benson unarmed was taken from the officers by a mob with violence, and...the said mob hung the said deceased to the sign in front of the county court house until dead.* I wonder how those events affected Nora, then 11 years old.

That year on October 9, 1873, Nora's oldest sister Mary married Robert Henley Smith of Brown County, Illinois. They were both school teachers. I think that is how they met. He had joined the Mormon Church about a year before they were married in the Endowment House.

On October 29, 1874 Alvin and Sophia had another child, Frank Waldon Crockett. He died a year later, their only child not to reach adulthood.

September 10, 1875, Robert Henley Smith went on a mission to Mexico, leaving Nora's sister Mary and their two year old daughter also named Mary, but later called Mamie.

On January 3, 1876 Nora's oldest brother Alvin David Crockett married Emma Hodges in the Endowment House. A month later Henry Wallace Crockett was born to Alvin and Mary, their twelfth and final child.

Brigham Young broke ground for the construction of the Logan Temple on May 18th. On August 6, 1877, Brigham Young College was founded in Logan. The Prophet died August 29th. About then the Logan Stake was reorganized. Alvin Crockett was named to the high council, where he served until he died. He spent much of the following decade hauling stone from Logan Canyon to build the temple.

That year Preston, Idaho was founded on land owned by people living in Franklin, who had been farming much of it since 1860. It had been called Sand Ridge or The Flat. The railroad came across the flat in 1878. The first LDS branch and the first school were organized that year in Preston.

Ozro Crockett

On December 26, 1878 two more of Nora's siblings were married. Her brother Ozro married Ruth Ann Clarkson and her sister Lydia married Archie Lamoreaux on the same day. Both couples settled temporarily in Logan but were soon to move to Preston.

The earliest letter in Nora's collection was sent from a friend and mentor in Logan named Ida Ione Cook. It was dated January 18, 1880. Here is part of it:

I will send you some questions with pleasure and hope your class will do well with them. Our school is full. I have no vacant seat. There are forty-five little folks and Bro. Apperley's room is full. Our first class are studying philosophy, history, physiology, and rhetoric. They are solving problems in three or more unknown quantities. Tonight Mr. Parkinson and Mr. Cragan are writing a composition about clouds. The house is full—only twenty-six of us and eighteen of the number are boys.

How are you getting along with your school? How about the kissing? I suppose your folks write you every week and tell you all the news....I think you will find the following examples will be a good test for your class: Page 264. ex. 13, 19, (etc.) After you have examined them send me word please, how they do. The lowest and highest percentage....Yours in love, Ida Ione Cook.

Ida Ione Cook

Nora would have then been 17 years old. Ida was a fellow teacher who had been Nora's own instructor, sharing some of her materials with Nora, who was evidently teaching school elsewhere. I suspect that Nora was in Wellsville.

"Brother Apperley" was a convert and immigrant from Ireland at age 10, who was by then 35 years old and married to Lydia Mangum Crockett, the adopted sister of Alvin Crockett. Apperley later married a Crockett in-law, Archie Lamoreaux's little sister Charlotte.

By the time of the 1880 U.S. census in Logan, recorded on June 14th, Nora was the oldest of six kids living at home with Sophia. Alvin was not there. For 14 year old George and 12 year old Will the census showed no occupation. Ten year old Roxie and seven year old Hyrum were "at school." Henry was four. Nora's occupation was given as keeping house.

Ozro and Ruth Crockett were living next door. He was listed as a bookkeeper, age 23. Ruth was 22 and their baby, Ruth Ann, was four months old. Lydia and Archie Lamoreaux with Archie Junior aged four months were living in the same home with Ozro and Ruth. Two doors down the road on the other side of Sophia lived her oldest daughter Mary, with Mamie age five, Rowland age three and Rochester age one. Mary was listed as "widow," but she was not a widow. Her husband had left her. I suspect that Robert Henley Smith had returned to his home state of Indiana, since he married Celia August Woods there in 1882.

Alvin David and Emma were living several houses further down the road with a three year old daughter and one year old son.

Alvin and Annie Crockett house on Crockett Lane 2019

Alvin Sr. was living at the time with Annie. His occupation was given as "County Sheriff." Annie had six children ages 2-13. According to the census, between Annie's and Mary's houses lived thirty other families, so at least one of the wives was now in a new house, since they had been adjacent in the previous census. Both of them eventually got new houses, possibly with the married children living in the old ones. I know exactly where Annie's new house is, since it had been restored and still stands on Crockett Lane. Sophia's house was described as a 1½ story cross wing home just off canyon road, also on Crockett Lane about ½ block to the north. As of now it is still standing, albeit with the bricks covered over with aluminum siding.

The second letter in Nora's collection is dated November 20, 1880. It was written by H. A. Wheeler, U.S. Geological Survey, S.L.C. *It was with great regret that I was compelled to leave Wellsville without being able to personally wish you goodbye.* He continued that he wanted to begin personal correspondence. A*lthough our acquaintance was not very long, it certainly was very sweet and pleasant.* Nora was now emancipated, not quite 18 years old, living away from home on her own and teaching school in Wellsville. Maybe H. A. Wheeler had been the recipient of the kisses that Ida Ione Cook had mentioned.

I have no information at all on Nora or any of her family in 1881 except that she got a new nephew and niece that year courtesy of her brother Alvin David and of her sister Delia, both children born in Logan.

In 1882, Logan City built a power plant to provide the town with electricity. And Logan got its first telephones. Sometime that year Frank Larsen opened a dancing school and began selling sewing machines in Logan. He had moved there from Dingle.

That fall Nora was teaching school in Hyrum.

Nora age 22

On January 30, 1883 Nora received one of a series of letters from a potential suitor, a 21-year-old named Charles Robert Clarkson who lived in Big Cottonwood. He had gotten acquainted with her the previous year in Logan and was now attending school under a Mr. Stevenson, whom Nora also knew. Evidently they had both written at least once previously. He thanked her for correcting his writing and wished he could have taken her on *that sleigh riding trip.* On February 13th he wrote again. *Received your picture, which I think very nice, but I don't think it does you justice. I do not wonder at you having the blues. I wish I could have seen you when you were cross.* Then in reply to her next letter he wrote on February 28th. *You said you did not know that you had a roguish look. I might have told you that. No, you did not look quite sober enough not to show that. You said you wished I was there to escort you to the party. I wish I had have been. I also wish you were here to go to a concert with me next Saturday night. I often think of the good times we had in Logan....I am in my last month for this winter and then I will have to go to work....The blot on the foot of the page (which was an accident) you must consider as a <u>kiss.</u>*

Charles Robert Clarkson

Charles had probably met Nora in Logan while visiting his older sister Ruth Clarkson, who had married Nora's older brother Ozro four years earlier and had not yet moved from Logan to their eventual home in Preston. Charles was born in Salt Lake. When he was six days old his mother died, and he was raised by his father's sister Mary Clarkston and her husband William Lark in Big Cottonwood. Only five weeks after Charles' mother died, his father Robert married again, which may explain why the infant was not welcome in his home. Robert kept his two girls, Ruth and Ida Clarissa, who were five and three.

Nora went to Salt Lake for conference that April but did not manage to hook up with Charles. He wrote on April 6, 1883, *I saw you once Sunday morning but could not get to you and could not find you again. I will start for Preston in the morning on the train and have got to make a quick trip or I would call on you. Mr. Stevenson will go as far as Ogden with me. I have been so uneasy lately....Just think of going 800 miles to work.* Evidently he had a job to report to on the west coast. By the time he returned, Nora had another suitor, as we shall soon see. Not much more than a year later Charles married Alvira Stout, daughter of Hosea Stout in Salt Lake City and moved to Preston in 1885 where his sister and Ozro Crockett were, living there as a farmer until about 1898.

Lydia Crockett

On April 28, Nora's sister Lydia wrote from Preston that she had heard that Nora, Mary, and Ma had been seen in Logan that day by Archie's mom. Lydia was homesick. Four days later she wrote to Nora, *(Yours) is the only letter I have got since I have been up here....Are you getting tired of teaching when are you going to get married?* I wonder if Lydia was thinking of Charles. *I like the place pretty well....Did you have a nice time in Salt Lake Conference?* Lydia wrote again on May 26th. Her husband Archie Lamoreaux had told Lydia of Nora's horseback ride. *I am nearly sick to see some of you up here. Ruth* (Charles' sister) *has just been up here....Ray can walk pretty good now (nearly 12 months) and would like to see his godmother* (Nora?)*....Awful lonesome with Archie gone. I wish Delia would come or little Henry* (their seven year old brother) *or someone. I don't think it would be any good wishing for Ma to come.*

Three days later Nora got a letter from her older sister Mary, who was now teaching 55 pupils in the rock schoolhouse in Newton, west of Logan, thanking Nora for the dress she made.

If Nora was missing Charles Clarkson, it did not take her long to get over him. On June 4, 1883 her life changed when she met a young book salesman from Iowa named Will Ream.

WILLIAM DEWINE REAM 1859-1882

In the fall of 1859 when the very first settlers were fording the Logan River to expand the settlement of Mormons into the northern part of Cache County in Utah, another sort of pioneer family was moving 650 miles from Ohio to break virgin sod in Lucas County, Iowa.

I don't know exactly when Sampson and Nancy Ream arrived in Lucas County. They came with a one year old daughter named Emmaline (Emma), and Nancy was probably already pregnant with her second child. Nancy's mother had died several years earlier in Ohio and her father Eli Murphin was also moving to Lucas County with his second wife and three little children to make a new start, along with some of Nancy's adult siblings. Her maternal grandfather, William Art may have started the family's move west to claim bounty land that he had been awarded for his service in the War of 1812. Sampson Ream's family was still living in Ohio in rural Highland County, where his father John Ream had pioneered his 67 acre farm a generation earlier after emigrating from Germany.

Nancy's second child was born October 29, 1859. They named him William Dewine Ream. Things must have been financially difficult for the family, for the 1860 census found Sampson Mitchell and Nancy living with a farm family and the two children living next door with another. After working a couple years as a farm hand, Sampson moved his family to virgin farm land he had purchased near the Chariton River, where a decade earlier the Mormons had come through Iowa on their way to Utah.

I don't know very much about Will's childhood years. His family called him "Bill." When he was two he got another sister, Anna Sadora, and when he was four there came a brother named Samie, who only lived about a year. Samie was buried by his father Sampson in the Chariton cemetery the month that Will turned six in October, 1865. In 1866 a sister named Edith was born. When Will was eight, the railroad arrived in Chariton along with a fine depot and hotel. His German grandfather, John Ream, died at the age of 68 in Ohio on October 7, 1868 just before Will's ninth birthday. I think it is possible that they never knew each other. When Will was ten, he got another brother named John Paul, just a month after the transcontinental railroad was joined at Promontory Point, Utah and John Wesley Powell set out from Green River, Wyoming on the first Colorado River exploration.

In 1870 the census showed that Will's father, Sampson Mitchell Ream owned 360 acres of farm land in Benton Township, Lucas County, Iowa. Ten year old Will was living on that farm with his parents, four siblings, and his mother's aunt, Jane Art, who was 60 years old. A sister named Nancy Victoria died on June 9, 1871 (or possibly 1872) after living only 12 days, followed by James Clement in 1873.

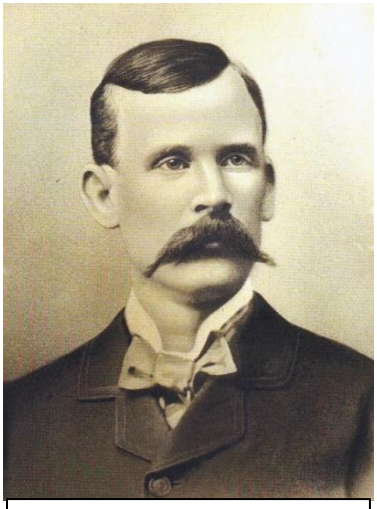
On May 14, 1874 Will's older sister Emma was married at the age of 16 to Martin Webb, a 35 year old civil war veteran. At 14 years old, Will became the oldest child in the household. There is little doubt that he was putting in a lot of time on the family farm. His

brother John was only five and Jim was still in diapers. Within a year, Emma's husband had left her and she moved back into the family home with her baby Minnie. They were divorced in 1877 after two years for desertion.

Another brother, Mitchell Centennial Ream, was born in 1876. Around 1877 Will's mother Nancy "united" with the Adventist Church in Benton Township. At first, the small group may have met in the Reams' house before sharing space with a small RLDS group in a schoolhouse. I have no evidence that Will took part in their worship, though in his later letters he showed a knowledge of religion. I think that by then Will was not living at home year round. Certainly he attended school in the winters, and after completing the usual grades, he must have gotten more education to qualify to teach school himself.

On July 27, 1879 Ida Maud Ream was born to Nancy and Sampson Mitchell Ream. By 1880 there were 713 people in Benton Township, nearly all of them on family farms, although there was a saloon, a blacksmith, and a dry goods store. There were seven school houses, seven teachers, and 314 school-age children. The census taker visited the Reams on June 23. There were eight children in the family then, ages 1-22, including Emma Webb, divorced. Anna Sadora, who was 18 was noted to be in school. She was preparing to be a teacher. Will, age 20, was listed as a farm laborer. None of the other children were in school at the time, but it was summer.

Sampson Mitchell was prominent enough in the community to be mentioned in an 1896 book called *A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa.*[14] The author wrote: *All of the children have received good educational privileges, and several have been successful teachers. Mrs. Burns* (Edith) *taught for some time in Lucas County, and also a number of terms since her removal to Oklahoma. William has been a teacher in Iowa, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, and John has had experience in teaching both in Jackson and Lucas Counties.* I know from the Ream letters, that the information is correct for Edith and John, but strangely, I do not have evidence to corroborate the claim that Will taught in Iowa, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, but assume that it is also true. He definitely taught in Utah and Idaho, as we shall see.



William Dewine Ream

What I do know is that Will was well educated for his time, and that he had been trained to be a school teacher. I believe that after he finished the mandatory six grades of school he attended two more to qualify to teach, and then taught in various places when not needed for farm work. In her brief biography[15] of Will, his daughter-in-law Mamie S. Ream wrote, *Will began teaching at age 18 besides helping on his father's*

[14] Chicago: the Lewis Publishing Co., 1896, page 1151.

[15] History of Bear Lake Pioneers, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Utah Printing Company, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1968, p. 647.

farm. At the age of 20 he bought himself a year's freedom from his father and came west seeking his fortune.

It is not surprising to me that he needed to buy his way out of farming. From the letter collection it is clear that the next two brothers, John and Jim, both received a lot of pressure to farm from their father, and were looking to escape. I think the next son, Mitchell never did farm much, moving at a young age to employment in the town of Chariton, leaving the farm for the last son, Durward, to inherit. Durward was not even born when Will left home permanently. In later years, Will said he hated farming. He even hated to eat corn. Ironically, there was to be a great deal more farming in his life, as we shall see. Like his father and his grandfather he broke virgin sod to create his farm.

With the railroad in Chariton, the world was open to Will. He may have studied or taught in Des Moines or even Chicago. One place where Will went for higher education was Burlington, Iowa, an important city on the Mississippi River about three hours east of Chariton by train.

Burlington had been visited by the explorer Lt. Zebulon Pike in 1805 when he raised the American flag for the first time on American soil and declared the area a good place for a fort as he, like Lewis and Clark, explored the Louisiana Purchase at the order of Thomas Jefferson. No fort was constructed, but the place became a post for John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company in 1829. It became the first capitol of the Iowa Territory in 1838. It was a bustling steamboat port about 30 miles upstream from Nauvoo, Illinois and an important railway hub including the route through Chariton.

Will had enrolled in the Orchard City Business College there, but did not stay long, having evidently run afoul of the principal of the school. I know little about the episode except for the content of six ardent testimonials in Will's favor, copies of which were preserved in Nora Crockett Ream's vast letter collection. Here is one of them, dated November 18, 1881, written by W. Cornick.

To whom it may concern. This is to certify that I have been acquainted with W. D. Ream for the past two weeks and found him a perfect gentlemen in every respect. I am sorry to see him imposed upon by our principal. G. W. Elliott. I feel that our principal has done an act which he shall regret. Mr. Ream is a hardworking man and has the sympathies of all that know him.

From A. S. Brighton of Fairfield, Iowa, *He has been imposed on by the Principal of the Orchard City Business college....Had not received any benefit from attending the school. I am sorry to lose him from our "Damen Boarding Circle." He will be missed by all who have become acquainted with him during his short stay here. I have no doubt but what the principal is a first class rascal.*

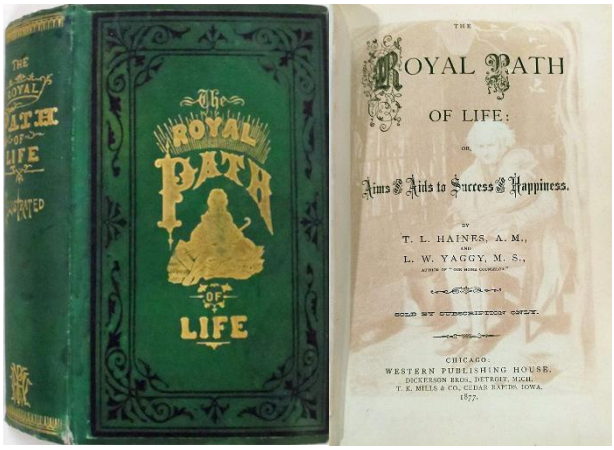
There were similar letters from E. White, Peoria, IL, C. A. Holmes, Danville, Iowa, E.H. Reeves, Montrose, IA, and M. W. Brockway, Conesville, IA, who added that the tuition had been paid and unjustly forfeited. From this we can deduce that Will entered and left the college during the month of November that year, also that he was popular with the

students, though not so much with the boss. This is just one of many injustices that the flamboyant Will would experience in his life.

Will was in Burlington long enough to develop a relationship with a young woman named Nettie, with whom he would correspond off and on for years. Flora Henriette (Nettie) Ebner was born in Burlington and lived there her whole life. Her mother died when Nettie was 14, the oldest daughter. She lived with her German father, Ferdinand, who was a gunsmith, finally marrying for the first time at age 48 to Veit Appel, a German widower. Interestingly, her mother's maiden name was Dewein. I think that is just a coincidence.

Before Will went west he had been retained as a book selling agent by *Western Publishing House* in Chicago. This group trained a force of young men who were assigned to specific territories across the country to sell and deliver books door to door. This was a technological breakthrough in sales that was the Amazon.com of its time, based on the rapid development of the postal system and railroads. For the first time, people could shop for books from their homes and have them delivered. The featured book was a self-help book called *The Royal Path of Life*, but the agents could order and deliver a wide variety of publications.

The Royal Path of Life, or "Path" as Will called it, was first published in 1876, but reprinted in 1877, 1879, and 1882. It was over 600 pages long. The deluxe edition was 6 x 8.75 inches, bound in leather with gilt titles and page edges. Inside the front cover was written: *Sold by subscription only.* I wish I knew how much it sold for originally. A first edition now sells for $1,140. The authors were T.L. Haines and L.W. Yaggy, who were neighbors on Chicago's wealthy Near West Side. Thomas Louis Haines had been a traveling salesman, specializing in books. When he was 30 years old, he purchased a half interest in the *Western Publishing House*. Levi W. Yaggy was an elder at the Third Presbyterian Church a few blocks away. Two years later he and Yaggy published the popular book and organized the sales force.



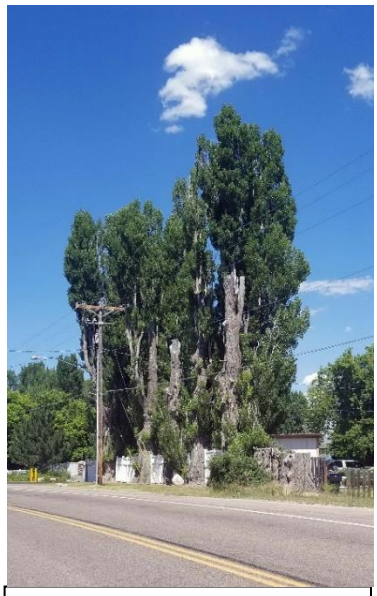
The book was intended to be read as a daily guide to a cultured and successful life, containing useful observations on a variety of topics. For example:

On life: *Take life as God intended. Take it just as though it was, as it is, an earnest, vital essential affair. Take it just as though you personally were born to the task of performing a merry part in it. As though the world had waited for your coming. Take it as though it was a grand opportunity to do and to achieve, to carry toward great and good schemes to help and cheer a suffering weary or heart-broken brother. The fact is life is undervalued by a great majority of mankind.*

On Labor: *The necessity of labor is not a chastisement but a blessing....It may indeed be questioned whether a heavier curse could be imposed on man than the complete gratification of all his wishes without effort on his part, leaving nothing for his hopes desires or struggles. That life, destitute of any motive or necessity for action, must be, of all others, the most distressing and the most insupportable to a rational being.*

On contentment: *Contentment consists not in adding more fuel, but in taking away some fire. Not in multiplying wealth, but in subtracting men's desires.*

On men and women: *We confess to a great distrust of that man who persistently underrates woman....We admire the ladies because of their beauty, respect them because of their virtues, adore them because of their intelligence and love them because WE CAN'T HELP IT. Man was made to protect, love, and cherish, not to undervalue, neglect or abuse women.*



Ancient row of poplars near Fish Haven, Idaho

On May 10, 1882 Will left Benton Township for good to go west. I know the exact date because he mentioned it in a letter to Nora two years later. He first stopped in Denver, where he spent at least several months making friends, and probably selling some books. Eventually he got off the train in Ogden, which became his business headquarters. He created a connection with a bookstore. He became acquainted with Ogden's prominent Farr family. He recruited additional men to help him to canvas. He later extended his sales line to include trees, especially Lombardy poplars, which were not native to Utah, not even to the Western Hemisphere.

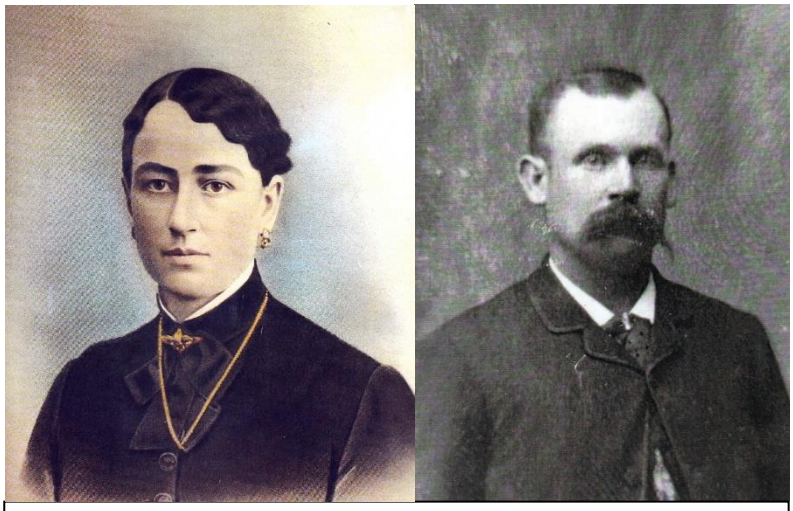
Lombardy poplars were introduced to the U.S. in 1784. A member of the willow family, they are a mutation of the black poplar, which grows very rapidly, and very tall, capable of reaching their full height of over 100 feet in 23-30 years, but their lifetime is short compared to many trees, seldom more than 50 years. That is why the city of Boston replaced them with elms in the 1820's after their early popularity. But they were much the rage in the mid-19th century until they started dying out. Albany banned them in 1871. Washington, D.C. and Brooklyn got rid of theirs. But they were very useful in areas where few trees were available. They spread only about 10-15 feet and made an effective screen, fence, hedge, or windbreak. This was appealing to brand new towns and farmers breaking in new areas. They are easily propagated from woody stem cuttings, which made it ideal for Will to sell by mail order and home delivery. From his letters it is clear that he also sold fruit trees.

Will's sales business was significant. Many associates were named or otherwise mentioned in his letters, although at some times he seemed to go it alone. He was in constant contact with his bosses in San Francisco and Chicago. When in a city, he sold door to door, but he seemed to spend most of his time in newly developing towns in northern Utah or southern

Idaho. His method there seemed to be to first locate the Mormon bishop, make friends with him and win his trust, and then extend out to the ward members. Often he boarded in public places, but in many small towns he stayed in welcoming homes. He would make a round of several towns selling, and then repeat the circuit to deliver orders after they arrived by train or freight wagon. He was often in Ogden, which makes me suspect that he may have had some sort of warehouse there. The first winter in Utah of 1882-83, when travelling was more difficult, he taught school in both Provo and in or near Ogden. At some point he acquired some land and a house in Hyrum, Utah.

After that, according to his daughter Beulah, Will *went to Bear Lake and took up some land and then he came back to Logan and met Mother.*

THE ROMANCE 1883-1886



Nora Crockett and Will Ream

We met by chance upon life's road
And from that meeting grew
A friendship that has lasted now
For years just fifty-two.

A maiden on her way from school
Met a blond and smiling youth.
Their eyes just met and held a while
And life was changed for both.

They tell of love at first sight.
Just have it as you may,
But this maiden and smiling youth
Were married at a later day.

As man and wife they had their share
Of pleasure, pain, and grief.
They raised a splendid family
Almost beyond belief.

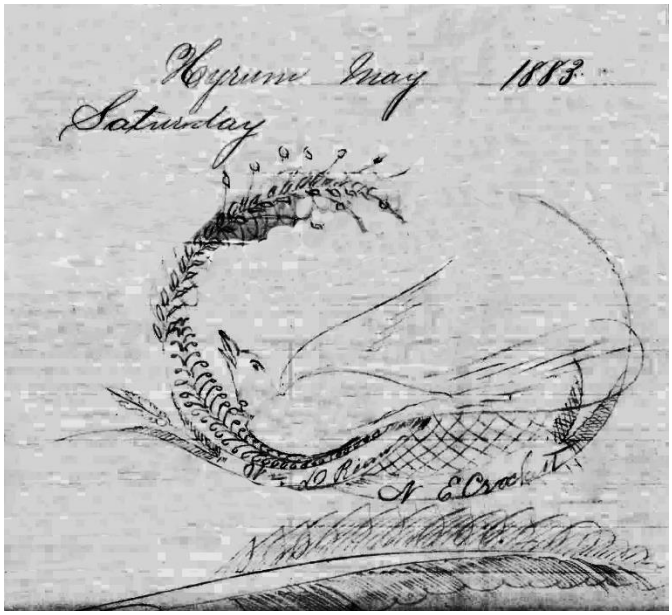
Eight stalwart sons and daughters two
Of which they're justly proud--
Some look like the loving mother
And some look like their Dad.

And so this dark eyed maiden
And blond and smiling boy
Will celebrate their golden wedding
Next Armistice Day with joy.

Written June 4, 1935 on the 52nd anniversary of our meeting that day on the sidewalk of Hyrum, Utah. Nora Ream

As Nora pointed out a half century later, love at first sight does not always lead to bliss, or immediate marriage either. But love at first sight it was.

And Will was always one to jump at an opportunity. As the story goes, not a word passed between them, only a glance. While it may have been a surprise to Nora, it was probably no accident and no surprise to Will that they met again that evening at dinner in her boarding house. He was in town to sell books and it did not take him long to choose a boarding house for himself.



Among Nora's letters is a drawing of Will's similar to many that she kept later. He loved to draw doves. Unfortunately, this one faded severely, and much of its beauty was lost despite my attempts to restore it. It raises questions. You'll note that it is dated May 1883, which would be before their meeting, yet her name is contained in the figure. Did Nora remember the date wrong in her poem? Did Will add Nora's name later to a drawing that he had already created? Or was the meeting on the path not an accident at all, but planned by Will to introduce him to a girl he had been admiring from afar?

I leave it to you to decide.

There was much work to be done to mature this relationship into a marriage (not to mention the work required afterwards). They had their careers, differences of faith, growing up to do. Will had debts to settle, work to do, decisions to make. Their careers would keep them apart. People would interfere. They courted for 2½ years before marriage, and the challenges were just beginning. Letters were their lifeline, and Nora preserved most of them. And I've got them now. I'll try to let the letters tell their story.

Nora and Will were likely together until August because no letters between them were saved during that interval. Nora saved only one letter during that time from anyone, and it was a business letter to Will. He must have carried it around in his valise for five years before it came into Nora's hands, for Will used the margins and reverse side of it to write a letter to her years later on December 12, 1888 from Rattlesnake, Montana. I'll share what he wrote to her in due time, but this is what was typed on it:

July 6, 1883, W. D. Ream, Esq., Logan Utah.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 28th ult.[16] *was received in due time and books shipped at once. We hope Mr. Wattis will do well in Idaho. That ought to be a good field. Our men in the*

[16] In the business letter style of the time, "favor" meant Will's letter; "ult." indicated the previous month.

territories are meeting with very fine success selling "Path". Now is a good time to work. We hope you may be able to take advantage of it and do some big work. With best wishes we beg to remain yours very truly, Western Publishing House. S.

This was from his supervisor in Chicago. Evidently Will had dispatched a man to cover Idaho while he was working in Utah. Will was about to receive a shipment of books to deliver. He was no longer in Hyrum then. Neither was Nora; school was out for the summer. He was boarding in Logan but making sales calls in the surrounding towns. Nora was in Logan, too. School was out and she was living with her parents. Will's first letter to Nora went from Logan to Logan on August 11, 1883, the first sign that he may not have been welcome to see her in her father's house. They may have already talked about marriage.

Still in Logan. Rode with Edward Stratford down to Bear River and through Benson Ward. Called on Bp. Harris and ate watermelons. Hunted....I beg to remain your betrouth (sic).

I could not find any record of Edward Stratford in Cache County. Maybe he was employed by Will, and a stranger to the area. Bishop Harris was Alma Harris, born in Ohio 1832. The famous Mormon named Martin Harris was his great uncle, his grandfather's brother. Benson was just a few miles northwest of Logan.

Bishop Alma Harris

The next day came another letter from a publishing house, this time in California: *Law, King & Law Publishing House, San Francisco, Cal. J. A. Moore Manager and General Agent for Denver. Acknowledge receipt of $100. Asking for balance in a day or two. Signed, J. A. Moore.*

On August 15, 1883, Will wrote from Clarkston, Utah, having first gone to Newton. He had a headache. It appears he was hoping to impress Nora with his popularity and academic prowess. *Received letter from my old correspondent Flora Ebner of Burlington Iowa. I have not heard from her for nearly two years. And two from young ladies in Iowa and one from Denver, Colo. She said: Mr. G. A. Eliott, Pro. of the Orchard City Business College was heard to remark that of all the students that had ever attended his school there was one from Chariton Iowa by the name of Ream that accomplished more in a given time than any that had ever come and he said that if he knew where he was he would solicit his attendance....He would give him his tuition free just for to see what he could accomplish in penmanship. My little Hattie is keeping book in the City. She said she would give anything to know where I was. The Denver girl said that she had been looking for me all spring and summer and wants to know if I had fallen in love with some of the Mormon girls....I will be in Logan but a very short time. See if you cannot arrange a private conversation. I would like one very much.*

That seems to be further evidence that Will was not welcome at the Crockett home. The very next day he wrote to her from Ogden. Business matters were pressing. He wrote from Parsons Brothers, an Ogden bookstore. *I had expected to go to Malad, but the mail brought*

different news, and I had to come to Ogden. I cannot help thinking about you....I must go and...see if my man has come in the train yet.

By September 3rd, Will was back in Logan, but leaving letters for Nora to pick up at the post office. *I arrived here yesterday afternoon....Received your second letter in Ogden...but had some shipping to do and could not answer it. Started to call on you last eve but thought it unwise and turned back...for which I am very sorry for now....Started hunting...but killing nothing, arrived at my destination to find that my bird had flown, to my great disappointment. On my return I looked for no game but pondered over my blighted thoughts.... (I) would like to have one more good talk with you before I leave again....Only have to settle up my business at Ogden, then I will be free for a while....Have discharged all of my men and I guess will quit the business. I am likely to go to Ogden at any time....I would call but I have run out of excuses and as your parents do not wish me to come, I would be pleased to meet you at your appointed place....I will look for a drop letter this eve if you get this one.*

On September 15th, Nora found this letter at the post office with a package....*Do not untie it for some time lest it will make you sick. It has produced wonderful effect and in some instances even death.* I think the package contained books. *I would suggest that you place it in some obscure place to keep the mice and rats away. The work is well executed but the subject was poor....If it were not for the gossip I would call and take you to the opera tonight....I shall attend....Expect to see you there.* He quoted Samuel Johnson: *"As a kind of oblivion had spread over me so that I know not what has become of the last year and incidents and intelligence pass over me without leaving any impression."* I wonder whether she sneaked out to the opera to meet him that night. I hope she did, but he later complained that she had often refused that sort of event.

Will was getting ready to press the issue with Nora's parents. On September 16th he wrote: *Still here.... (I) will call at your father on Tuesday evening to bring your ring and ask Mr. and Mrs. Crockett for their consent and would like if you would have them present. I will return from Ogden as soon as I can, and go to Bear Lake for a short time.*

It is now clear that Will had met Frank Larsen. That is the reason why he was planning to canvas next at Bear Lake. Did that mean that he was infringing on Mr. Wattis' territory, or had he discharged him as he was contemplating? Will had not quit the business of selling—that is what he would be doing in Bear Lake Valley. I could find no sign in any letter of how the meeting with the Crocketts went.

A week later he was still in Logan. *I did not leave when I expected to....My horse was gone and I did not find it until yesterday. Will start this afternoon. I received a letter from home last eve. There are three of my old girls married and one dead. They want me to come home. I wrote and informed them (that) when I come I would bring someone with me.* Now his parents knew about Nora. The next letter makes me think that the Crocketts were asking for references on Will, or maybe Nora was. Evidently Flora Ebner's story about the business school professor's praise of Will did not suffice.

On September 23, 1883, Nora received this letter from Philena Gartin, a young neighbor of Will's, attesting to his character. I'll not correct her quaint spelling. *William D. Ream was raised one halfe mile from my hous and his father and mother still lives thar at this time. William was conciderd a strait onerable young man. I never new of him bing in a habbit of visiting saloones nor giting drunk nor playing cards. I would beleive his word on anney thing he told me. I hant bin aquainted with mr. Ream fore the last 4 years, but if he has bad habits he has aquired them since I new him. Ezcus the bungling maner I tok to tell you. Yours with due respect Feline Gartin.*

Philena was the same age as Will, and had been married since December 25, 1876 to Stephen R. Lott. I don't know why she used her maiden name. At the time of the letter she had two living children and had lost a daughter at the age of three. She was living with her husband in Warren Township, Lucas County, Iowa, just a few miles from Benton Township. That she had not seen Will for four years suggests that he had lived away from Benton Township since 1879, three years before he came to Utah.

Will wrote to Nora from Garden City, Utah on September 24th. Two days earlier he had left Logan, stopping at River Dell. He spent the first night in Logan Canyon and saw nothing but chipmunks and lumbermen, reaching Garden City on Saturday afternoon. Two days later he wrote from St. Charles, Idaho. *Came from Fish Haven today with our friend* (so they *both* knew him) *Mr. Larson. We had a pleasant drive which we passed talking about old times—hunting, fishing, various kinds of business, old friends and lovers, what had happened and what might of been. One thing no doubt you would like to hear...was the incident that took place on the 25th of July if you remember, the day you called at the P.O. and told Br. Brangham* (William Brangham, the postal clerk) *not to let anyone have your mail. The gentleman inside was Mr. F. L.* (Frank Larsen) *as you supposed. And it was he that dropped the line you told me of, for he said so today as we were driving along. He said that he came very near signing my name....F. seems to be a good friend to me but I believe that he knows who dropped the other note. If he would tell. I could not find out without venturing too far, so I had to drop the (subject).* Will wrote how homesick he was for Nora, and then, *have you heard from Chariton? They are afraid that I will get a Mormon girl, and well they might if they knew what I think I know. I guess I will not go to Iowa yet a while but I may go to Colorado when I return. I have a good chance there.*

Will was still in St. Charles on September 30th. *Still stopping at Mrs. Pugmire's. A good place and plenty of books to read. Mr. Frank Larson called and we had a pleasant time. Frank and I will be down soon. (He will if I don't.) Mr. Larson and myself have been talking of taking a trip into Afton next June. If all is well we will call and see (the) National Park and several other noted places. I expect to call and pay our friend a visit before I return.* October 1: *Managed to get 44 orders last week, want as many more this week. I have made the acquaintance of a very nice young lady (who is working) here in this place. Her name is Luanna. Don't you think that is a fascinating name? I think she is a nice little girl, but not as*

Luanna Pugmire

nice as mine. Luanna Booth was 21. She ended up getting married to one of the Pugmire boys, Edward, in November 1886.

From Paris on October 6, 1883, Will wrote: *Just finished making out my report and have only one sheet of paper left....Going on the lake tomorrow for a lark. There will be quite a number of us. It is the finest lake for boating I ever beheld in my life. I have not been over to Dingledell yet. (There is where our friend Frank lives.) They say it is a very nice place. Have not seen Mr. Larsen this week. He was expecting to go to the City soon to see his -----. There is an acquaintance of mine here from Ogden...Mr. Kuhn....He is a fine fellow, but a Jew of the old style. And Mr. Rich (one of the apostles) is very low. He is not expected to live.* Charles C. Rich died on November 17th. *I will trust to the old saying: There is a Divinity that shapes our ends. Rough hew them how we may.*

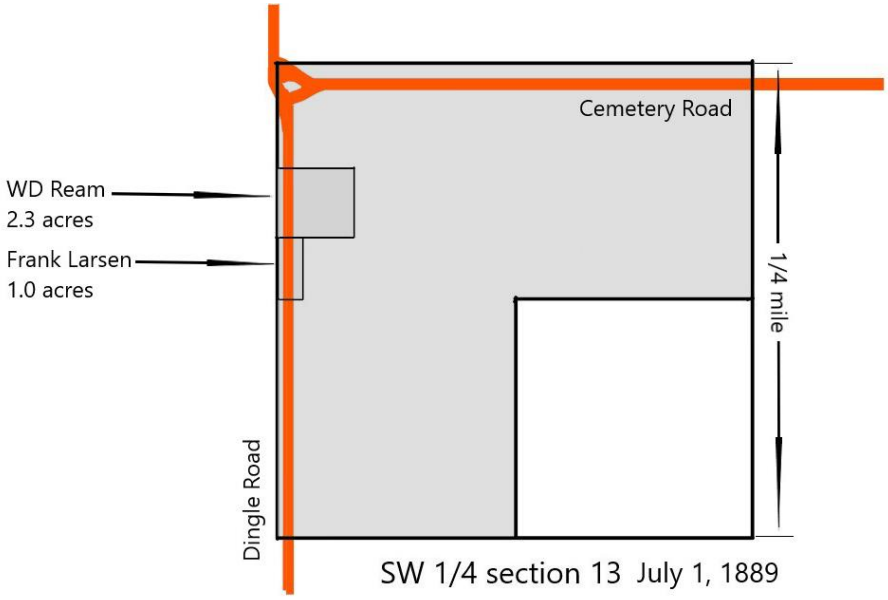
On October 14th Will was in Bennington, but he had been working out of the hotel in Montpelier. He was still using his technique of first contacting the bishop of each community. It seemed to be working for him....*I have but one sheet of paper, which I borrowed from the Bishop. All I had was in my valise in Montpelier and they have no store here....I have visited three schools since coming into the valley. The first was at Garden City and it was taught by Miss Luna R. Rich. I took her order for a Path....The other two were gentleman teachers. (Your) writing to those men in Iowa it is all right with me...but I do not care about everyone writing and inquiring.* Nora seemed to be still gathering personal references on Will. *Would like to know what Mr. Gartin says about me, as he knows more....In speaking about your horse, you said it was so tame. Mine is the other way. He is as full of life as can be. He has shed off all of the old hair and is as black as a coal and fat too. He is very fat and Devilish. I will ride him to Montpelier this afternoon. That kiss you are going to give me for my mamma I would like to have, as I have not had one since I left Logan. The book you sent met with welcome and I thank you very much.*

Then after posting this letter he wrote again the same day. *Just returned from posting a letter....Will write again this eve.* Will was worried about her riding a wild horse—he did not want to have to *find another Nora*. He wanted to leave his horse with her while he spent the winter in Boise. *I had thought of teaching a writing school in Logan on my return. Mr. White wanted that I should go in and help him but I guess I will not. I have a favor to ask you of your father. I have a mortgage on one house and two lots in Wellsville, which is due on the 17th of Nov. and if I cannot get there would you get your father to close it....I will send the note and mortgage to him (that is if I cannot come.) I have done well here and will stay until the 10 of Nov., then come to Logan if I have no bad luck.*

Then in October it happened. Will finally visited their friend Frank Larsen at his home, the Dingle Dell Ranch. Though he did not state it explicitly, I think he went there at that time to initiate a homestead for Nora and himself to live in. According to land descriptions at the Bear Lake County courthouse, Frank was operating two homestead claims in Dingle. The one in his own name was in section 18, located a mile east of the Dingle cemetery. Frank's Dingle Dell Ranch house was located on his mother's claim in the southwest corner of

section 13, which stretched roughly east of where Dingle road now runs, and south of the cemetery road for a quarter mile. She later sold it to him. The house itself was probably located on a single acre lot right in the middle of that stretch, just adjacent to the south edge of the two acre[17] lot that Will later bought from him upon which the present day "Dingle mansion" stands.[18] In his autobiography Will's first son Wesley described Frank Larsen's house as the largest in Dingle, a two story frame house, which burned down around 1900. Will probably filed his homestead claim on that first visit to Bear Lake County.[19] Will submitted his homestead registration with the U.S. Government for two quarters of section 14, right across the road to the west of Frank and adjacent to Fred Oakey on the north, one quarter in his name and one likely in Nora's. His plan was to build a dwelling on it as soon as possible, and then spend the year improving it sufficiently to bring Nora to Dingle the next fall.

On October 23, 1883, Will wrote a beautiful letter to Nora. *You spoke of feeling strong about me. Now there is a meaning there that inspires me more than many flattering words would have done. Nora, to know that you have an interest in me is all I want, and I can accomplish*



my aim with little exertion, whereas it would have been almost impossible. My name is success, and my cousin is honesty, my sister is love, my brother is integrity, my father is charity, my mother is faith and I hope with this royal family and <u>you</u> the zenith of my desire, I know no such words as fail. Those persons that say that I am not coming back know as much

[17] WD Ream only ended up with two acres, but Frank excluded 2.3 acres in that spot from the mortgage of his mother's land.

[18] On July 1, 1889 Frank Larson sold his property in Section 13, but the contract specifically excluded the two lots shown in the diagram.

[19] Will's two homestead patents were granted on March 9th and May 15, 1889. Because the law required that the patent be issued between five and seven years after filing a homestead claim, he could have filed initially before, but not after March, 1884.

about it as the wise men of Spain knew that the world was not round. He wrote that his family had offered him a team without cost to farm in Iowa, *but farming I have no taste for any more.* He didn't want to go back. He wished he were half a dozen men, so that he could create a nice home for the two of them by next fall. He would kiss her name on the last letter as he had no picture, but *would much rather kiss the original.*

He had taken a lot of orders, and now the books had arrived at Laketown. He was feeling the pressure to get them delivered. He wrote on November 1st. *Will commence delivering next Monday and will be traveling all of the time. I was never so pushed for time in my life, have 165 books to be delivered in a few days and the weather is very bad.*

By November 12th he had worked his way to Ovid. I think he was getting a little jealous of one of Nora's friends. He was planning a rather ambitious trip, especially considering the season. *You must not enjoy Mr. E. Ricks' company very much....You said you would like to see me real bad—no worse than I would you....A gentleman East wants me to go North and settle up some business for him....I am first to go to Pocatello, then from there to Blackfoot and Eagle Rock and Hailey. I intend going on horseback if it does not snow too much. Wish you had my watch, as I do not want to carry it on the trip.* He hoped to be in Logan by Christmas. *Pleased to hear that you and Emma* (his sister) *still write. I sent you a book last night by express and forgot to prepay. You pay for it and get the book, will you? How are you getting along with your school and German?*

Then the next day he wrote from St. Charles, *I have not had time to write all of my business letters. Many to answer. Your last letter was to Laketown. Since then I have been on the go from one place to another. On leaving (Laketown) went to Garden City. Spent the evening at Mr. Allred. Saturday came to St. Charles, Sunday started for Dingle Dell, stopping but a short time. I went to Cottonwood where I put up for the night with Bishop Dalrymple. On Monday to Montpelier, then Dingle Dell. Tuesday to Montpelier then to Bennington, then to Ovid to Paris to Bloomington to Paris to Bloomington to St. Charles, working the whole time. I dreamed that you had found another fellow--more wise, more handsome, and one you loved better than the book agent. I cannot be there on the 15th, maybe not until the 22nd. I have extended the mortgage or written to Mr. Goddard today as the man wants the money a little longer.* Joseph Goddard was Will's bookkeeper in Logan.

Will be down soon to see you and your new beau.

I think that E. Ricks mentioned above was Ezra Ricks, a 30 year old single farmer from Benson in Cache County, Utah. He was the first son of polygamist patriarch Joel Ricks through Joel's younger second wife. The family had been original settlers of Cache Valley, moving there from Centerfield in 1859 when Ezra was only seven. Ezra eventually married Lois Julia Clark in 1888 when he was 35 years old, but she died a year later in childbirth. I couldn't find a photo of him, so I'm not sure just how much competition he may have presented to Will. Will must have come to Logan soon after that, for the letters stopped suddenly, apparently no longer necessary.

But by December 15th he was on the road again. He had returned to Ogden with Frank Larsen, arriving the previous evening and was writing Nora from the bookstore *C.H. Parsons and Company* on their stationary. Parsons was his wholesaler. *Have sent your book by express. It was the best I could get. The other one will come in time. I was met with a hearty welcome by all of my old friends. Will leave here this eve for Mr. Cook's. I like Ogden better than Logan. Our friend Mr. F. L. (*Frank Larsen) *is calling on Miss Minnie Young. The store is full of people and I will have to make several calls this afternoon.* I think that Cook was an associate at the school where Will had taught the previous winter. Evidently Cook lived a bit outside of Ogden; perhaps the school was there also. Will and Frank spent a couple days there, and then wrote to Nora:

Will go to Ogden tomorrow. I have had a good time. The people were glad to see me it seems and want me to teach school this winter. My friend Mr. F. L. is with me and has been since we left Logan City. He seems to like the folks very much and takes well. Well Nora I have had my temptations since we parted, could not resist them all. I'm sorry to confess but will do better in the future. The great sin was kissing some girls. I did it out of curiosity and if you will forgive me this time, I will try and not do it anymore. I wanted to see if there was any difference and am satisfied now. Frank is having a good time telling about his yellow show drops and how he pops corn. He has made a mash on all of the girls. My chances are quite slim now, but I don't care. I have not seen Miss Nora Farr yet. She was daughter of the mayor of Ogden, only 15 years old and little sister to Will's friend Mark. *Her brother has been looking for me for some time. Will go and see him tomorrow. We went skating. There was some good skaters, far better than in Logan. Returned to our room in the Chamberlain House....I was to see the old school house Sunday. It looks the same as it did last winter. Cheerless and cold, it has no inviting qualities about it...but when I stop to think I almost wish that I was in the schoolroom again. But that day has passed. I am afraid never again to return.* I think he means he will never teach again, not just at that school.

In his third letter in four days in the Ogden area Will wrote again. *I am enjoying my trip very much, only wish you were along. I met Miss Minnie Young this evening.* I think that Minnie must have been Frank's girlfriend. *It has been my lot to meet many young people on this trip....People are more sociable here than up there. Well did you get the book? The other one will get there by Christmas if all is well. Mr. Parsons did not have any on hand. I expect to see a Chicago fellow soon. They claim that I owe them $144 and it must be settled before I come back. After Monday send (your letters) to SLC....Frank is enjoying himself very much, he had a good time tonight.*

On Christmas Eve Will wrote from Salt Lake City. *Three days in Huntsville. On leaving Ogden Wed. Mr. F. L. and myself we walked to Mr. Farr's or nearly, when we was overtaken by a...ride....On Sunday I was invited to church by Mr. Parsons...the wholesale book dealer in the Broom hotel....Evening I called on Miss Nora* Farr *but she was not at home. They had been looking for me all week. We started for the City the same day. I am expecting to go to the theater tonight and take Miss Pratt. I only wish you were here to go along, that is, if you would go...but I don't believe you would. You never would go when I was in Logan and I do*

hate to go alone. I wonder if he was referring to Clomenia Phelps Pratt, one of the daughters of Orson Pratt. She would have been 24 years old at that time. Clomenia is the woman that Frank Larsen eventually married in 1904.

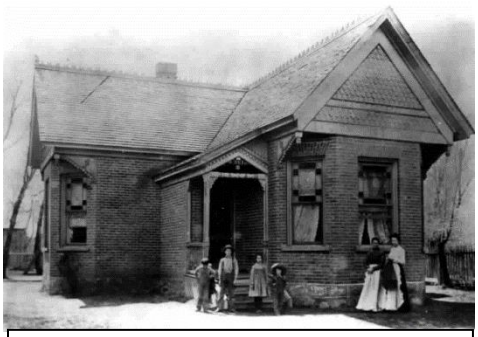
On December 26, 1883 it was the fifth wedding anniversary of Nora's brother Ozro and his wife Ruth, who were living in Preston. For the occasion Ozro gave Ruth a copy of *The Royal Path of Life*. In her diary Ruth wrote: *I was surely quite charmed with it, and took a lot of joy reading it through.*[20]

On December 30, 1883 Will's sister Emma Webb wrote to Will. The previous year she had re-married Martin "Mart" Webb after their divorce in 1877 and they were living in Palmyra, Iowa about 40 miles north of Chariton. *Pa and Edith is up and there has been a house full of young people. We spent Christmas at Chariton. I would give you a $20 gold piece to have had you there. Will, you ask my advice on what to do if I were in your place, I think you are capable of choosing for yourself. If Nora is your choice never mind about being rich nor never let anything or anyone separate you if you love Nora. I love her to and you will be welcomed to our home as a Brother and Sister. Mart did not get his money from New York or we would have sent you money. Pa did not raise any corn to amount to anything. We let him have some money. You need not worry about paying that money till next fall. We are not in any hurry for it....I would like to see you both before the year of 1884 closes. Mart said to tell you that you had his best wishes and to write some to him in my letters.*

This is an important letter. It reveals that at some point Will incurred a debt to Martin Webb, his brother-in-law. Evidently the Webbs had been planning to send him even more money. Even though Emma reassured him about the payback schedule, this debt seems to have been weighing on Will, and it would continue to be an issue for him and for the Webbs over the next several years. I would love to understand more about that. Did they fund the buyout of Will's obligation to his father to work on the farm? I think that is unlikely, since Emma and Mart were divorced at that time. Maybe it was for the house and lots that Will had in Wellsville, mentioned in the letter of October 14th. As we will see, the debt also came to involve Frank Larsen.

On January 3, 1884 Will was back in Ogden, writing upon the stationary headed C. L. Parsons and Co. Dealers in Books, stationery, School Supplies. *Just returned to Ogden this morning. I left Mr. F.L. in the City. I am looking for him today. We had a good time. Going to Mr. Farr's tonight.*

He and Frank were still at Farr's on the 7th. Marcus was one of the 17 sons of the famous pioneer Loren Farr. At this time Marcus was 28 years old and



Marcus Farr's house in Ogden

[20] Chicago Tribune April 29, 1998, Patrick T. Reardon, Tribune Staff Writer.

This might be the picture that Will mentioned.

married with a one year old child. At some point he operated a coal yard in Ogden and also a general store on 21st and Wall Avenue. *All day F. L. and I was calling. In the evening we were at Mr. Crabbe's* in Salt Lake City. William Henry Crabbe was born 1840 in England, a carpenter, living on 2nd South, 8th East. *Heard the band playing....Found it was at the skating rink. The champion bicycle riders of the world were to perform....*He raved about it. *Mr. F.L. went to Provo and I stayed....I was looking for a friend from home, a conductor on the D. and R. G. Stopped at Joseph F. Smith overnight, enjoyed myself. Got off at Hooperville, crossed the sand ridge to an old friend of mine, took a sleigh ride going to Kaysville. When I left the City Mr. F.L. was at Provo. I have been looking for him ever since. I was at a dance where I taught school....They wanted me to teach again. I could not get the book you wanted. I tried both here and in the City. I will send back East and get if for you. I made myself a present of seven books. I received a letter from home...and got your picture back. They like the looks of you real well. Mother wanted me to bring you home next fall...if I was not ashamed of them. You would like to go would you not? ...I have my trunk here, waiting for Frank.*

On the way back to Dingle, Will and Frank stopped in Logan. It may have been there that he had a meeting with the representatives of the publishing house, Craige, Sentell, and Thomas, since Nora had evidently met them. It was probably also when Will resolved to read the Book of Mormon.

By January 15, 1884 Will and Frank were back at the ranch. Will wrote that he had just arrived from Logan on the train to Montpelier. There he had visited a friend, Mrs. Phelps (probably Sarah Phelps, born in England, age 28), who had regarded him a smart man until he came back (to Bear Lake), but now she *classed him with the other fools*. After buying supplies across the valley, he walked the six miles to Cottonwood to an acquaintance named Stewart (probably Charley Stewart, born in Illinois in 1858), and then to the ranch the next morning. He was finding the winters there worse than he expected. He wished Nora were with him. He did not see her again for over four months.

A week later Will had his adventure chasing Frank's horses on top of Merkley Mountain. [21]

On February second, Will evidently had received a letter from Nora that disturbed him. Evidently her family had been trying to break them up. He took a week to respond. *Why is it that everybody is concerned with your affairs? Are they jealous of you for fear you will marry someone better than they are or not get one as good? ...I don't believe it is because I am a gentile....Look at any of the leading men of the church....Some of their family have (done it)*

[21]Refer to page 13.

and nothing is said about it...and still they are down on you for going with me....There are several who want to break up the match and some of them are related to you. Now if you feel that you have done wrong and want to be released from the engagement I will do it though it costs me dearly.

Also, Nora had been seeing another man. Will actually encouraged it, because he didn't want her to be as lonely as he was. He was *troubled to think that our meeting interferes with your school. I hate to have people speaking to you about it, especially the trustees.* He had gotten tin types of his parents—he was sending Nora the one of his mother. Ma wanted him to come home and marry a Burlington girl. *She thinks if you are worth having you will go back for me.* He got a letter from his oldest sister Emma—she was the only one who approved of the match. He mentioned that he had taught school in Provo the previous winter. They had wanted him to stay. *What difference in society here and in Salt Lake, altogether different.* He sent her a short poem written by *one of my old school mates.*

His letters were becoming troubled and showed insecurity. I think he felt that Nora was becoming less interested in him as others interfered with their relationship. He was not feeling well, and discouraged. On February 15, 1884 he shared a poem that he had penned.

(1)
Only believe that thy father
Is guiding thy lonely way.
Guiding thee out of the darkness
To the light of eternal day.
Only believe though in darkness
The sun is still shining above
And the cup of bitterest sorrow
Is mixed with drops of love.
(2)
It is not just as we take it
This mystical world of ours,
Life's field will yield as we make it
A harvest of thorns or flowers.

In an undated letter that was probably written about that time, Will wrote that he had never proposed to anyone else. If not to Nora, he would never marry. The sleigh had upset and thrown him into the river. Mr. Nowland had been with him and fell out, lost his hat. Will was driving, saved the blankets. He finished David Copperfield yesterday.

On March 25, 1884 Will wrote from Dingle Dell Ranch, exchanging and commenting on photos. *Would like very much to visit your school but I think it would not be wise considering the feeling of the Directors. I have been thinking some of going to conference. Frank sends his best regards, says to tell you (he is) old and ugly, cross, snow blind and sleepy and indifferent to everything.*

Will did not go to conference, which does not surprise me. That was the general conference when at a special priesthood meeting, President John Taylor asked all monogamists serving in ward bishoprics or stake presidencies either to make preparations to marry a plural wife or to offer their resignation from their church position, and he called out the names of monogamous stake presidents. Stake President William W. Cluff resigned on April 22, 1884 rather than take a plural wife.

On April 13th Will wrote Nora a long letter. Half of it addressed the frequency of their letters and her failure to answer questions specifically. The second half was an impressive discussion of astrophysics, with a diagram of elliptical orbits. Four days later he wrote again.

Bishop Wilcox and family

Hauling implements from Montpelier over the swollen river. Sorry to hear that Archie will need another operation....What is the use if it? Nora's brother-in-law, Archie Lamoreaux, had suffered severe frostbite while stranded in the mountains east of Preston that winter, losing the front end of both feet. *What does your mother and father think now? Do they talk to you much about me? I hope you have a good time with your last term of school for this year. I sometimes wish I had taught last winter. I had a letter from (Dingle Bishop Wilcox's) daughter the same day I got yours and she said that they had two schools, a Mormon and a Gentile school. She said they all wanted me to teach and was mad because I did not. Her mother, (the bishop's wife) said I cracked my reputation with her by not teaching. Another winter I may teach.* He was speaking of the two schools in Dingle. Eventually Will did eventually teach in Dingle.[22] Will wrote again on April 25th from the ranch: *Yours of the 20th at hand and glad to hear from you....As for being a second F.L., I hardly think I am. I have a good time with F. when we're together but we are seldom together of late....Do not give up your music, even if you do not have much time....Keep practicing.* If she compared Will to Frank, I wonder if she was referring to dancing.

Finally spring of 1884 had broken and Will could resume work. That was good, since he seemed to be getting depressed and discouraged. His next letter came from Liberty, Idaho. He was selling books again. It was his first time in that part of the valley. *I had very good*

[22] Wesley Ream wrote in his *Short History of Dingle:* In the early days Dingle was divided into two factions. It remained so for many years. There were two schools in the town at one time. One on Peg Leg Island was called the "Gentile School". There was no logic to the name because there were more Mormons than non-Mormons attending it. The other school, called the "Mormon School", was held in the meeting house. It seems some non-Mormons attended it. Some of the first teachers were Joseph Lewis, Hyrum Oakey, William D. Ream, Nora Ellen Crockett Ream, and a Mr. Robbinette.

luck considering the disadvantages I had to contend with. You are going to have a good time in Logan from the account I see in the Journal*. Allow me to congratulate you for the honor bestowed on you as Goddess of Liberty. A very good choice. I'm sorry I can't be there.... (Frank Larsen) will be there instead. He is to start today from the ranch.*

Evidently Frank did not go to Logan as planned, since he was still in Dingle on May 5th. *I am helping F. L. put in some wheat and oats. I will start to Montpelier tomorrow morning to send a dispatch for some goods ordered. We have sold all we shipped in. I have not read Adam Bede, yet will when I get time. F.L. tells me it is a good book. He has so many good books it will take a long time to read all of them....The question that bothers me most is this: Am I worthy of you? I often think I am not. I am not satisfied here, have been wishing that I had taken your advice. It may come out all right yet. I look different now to what I did when you last saw me. I have a heavy beard all over my face. Shall I leave it and let you see me with it on? ...It will be two years the tenth of this month since I left home.* That is how I know that he left Iowa on May 10, 1882. *I would like to see all at home very much. Nora, write me the dream in your next please? The one you had about me. I want to hear it. F. L. has gone a calling tonight and my lamp is getting dim.*

During May 17-19, 1884 the Logan Temple was dedicated by John Taylor. Perhaps that celebration was connected to Nora's election as Goddess of Liberty—the election seems too early to have been for July 4th. Will missed that, but on June 1st he wrote: *I shall be in Logan soon. Look out for me. I am well and in a thriving condition.*

There are no letters for the next three weeks because Will and Nora were both in Logan. Apparently it did not go well. My guess is that the Crocketts were putting pressure on Will to become a Mormon. And there may have been something about Ezra Ricks. While still in Logan, Will left this letter at the post office for Nora to pick up: *I have concluded to leave town. I feel depressed in spirit and wickeder than usually. I would like ever so much to spend another evening with you but I must go. I will remember my promise to you and keep it well....I feel my sinfulness bitterly this morning, but I hope that when we meet again if not till the dawning of the Immortal Day that I will be all you wish. Nora my love for you is doubly strong.*

He went home June 24th via Black Smith Fork Canyon, using the old Indian road that Charles C. Rich had explored in 1863 as an alternative way to Paris before the Logan Canyon road was developed. He wrote a letter on the way, a part of it written at each stopping point. The letter began as he was letting his horses graze. He was resting on the saddle blankets in the shade. *I am all alone thinking where you are. It must be nearly time for the show. Yes I see you going with Mr. Ricks, so I turn my head and think of the ranch....Now at Mr. Curtises. I can't get through the canyon, so I will stay and go a fishing. First we will get some hoppers....Caught none....At meadow wood....At Mr. Tufts.* Then he saw the lake.

Frank and Will were together in St. Charles on June 29, 1884, planning to be in Ovid the next day. He wrote, *Sunday night just before returning I slept alone in my own house. It is*

bare and vacant, but I'm the sole monarch. That puzzled me. At first I thought that he was speaking of the cabin he was to build on the Dingle homestead, but I looked at a calendar, which revealed that he was writing on a Sunday, so he must have been speaking of June 22nd. That was just before he set out for Bear Lake via Blacksmith's Fork. He was sleeping in his vacant house in Wellsville, the one with the mortgage he wrote of. And from there it made sense to travel to Dingle from Blacksmith's Fork rather than the northern route through Preston. I wonder when and how he bought that property. And why? And what ever happened to it?[23]

Will continued, *Nora I feel really happy tonight. I wish you were here to pray for me tonight. No doubt you will where you are, but it would be much better if I was with you. I would have more faith. I feel different to what I have for some days. I would be cured of homesickness. Oh! How I long for a change in life, something new. Will have it soon, I guess. Answer this letter if you can before leaving the valley.*

Will announced that Frank was planning to drive a wagon to Logan by the 4th to pick up machinery and supplies. Knowing this, Will jokingly invited Frank to enclose a note into his own letter to Nora, which to his surprise, Frank agreed to do. When Will's letter arrived it was saved by Nora with an even longer one from Frank, which he had written in a jesting manner, confessing it gave him *queer feelings.* However, Frank would over time pursue his relationship with Nora, much to the irritation of Will as we will see.

Will wrote again on July 4th. He said he had written four times with no answer from Nora. We have three of these letters, so they obviously reached Nora. Maybe one went missing*....There is going to be horse races here on the ranch today and I am to take part. Would you take a part if you were in my place? Where I come from it was looked upon as a disgrace.* He said that he was trying to increase his letters from two a week to every other day despite having received none from her. By July 8th he wrote that had written five or six letters without a response. *Have the Trustees suspended your correspondence with me (and the absurd idea) or what is the reason you do not write? Be careful Nora....My love for you is getting stronger the longer I wait.... If I should come down on the 24th would you spend the day with me or not? If not I shall go to Ogden.*

Will was working his route, having sent the previous letter from Bloomington. The next day he was in Fish Haven, still complaining of no letters. It felt like a year to him since they parted in June. He wrote on July 8th*. Have just started word to Lostangeles* (sic) *to a friend to find me a situation. I never have had such a troubled mind.... Not fit for business, can't remember anything. The (subject of) religion has worried me more than everything else in the world....I have a will to do right but is seems that my faith is poor. Something is wrong somewhere. Well Nora, I shall ask your advice and act accordingly. Shall I sell out here or not? Well, I'll wait till you see Bear Lake, then you can decide. (Hope you come on the*

[23] I spent an afternoon in the Cache County courthouse trying to learn more about that house in Hyrum, but to no avail. Evidently the mortgage was not registered officially.

excursion). I may not be here, but the valley will, and you can see Dingle Dell and the ranch. I may be in Ogden or Oxford unless you tell me when you are coming....I will ask you one question it may be you can answer it better than giving advice: Will you give your word and promise to be my wife in one year from now? I will know what to do then....Well, F. L. has not come yet. I thought to meet him this evening....I would have been there on the fourth but for this reason: You would have been engaged in Mr. Ricks' company and I would have had to take a back seat, which would have mortified me to death...and then have to stand back of F. L....Yes, come with the excursion to Bear Lake and see how you like it. Let me know and I will try and be here if I have not already got an appointment. Thanks for the flowers, I'll send you a bouquet in the morning.

Evidently Nora did come on the excursion to Bear Lake, and Ezra Ricks was there as well. It seems that they were in some sort of musical performance or a play on the west side, perhaps in Garden City or St. Charles. Although Nora did not cross the valley to take a look at Dingle Dell Ranch or the homestead, apparently Will was able to see her briefly. He wrote a long letter to her while she was still there on July 12th, at the end of which he said, *I am looking for a good time on the lake today—and in your society for a short time. Something I had never dreamed of. I am glad you came on this trip*.

But most of the letter was about Will's discouragement. He was sad. I would say depressed. He had been sick ever since the Logan visit, having lost 27 pounds that summer. *My troubles are increasing every hour and I feel that they were getting the best of me....If I don't take a change for the better soon I will be unable to get around....I have decided my mind on a change of climate. Do you endorse the idea? When I came home today and took a look at things my heart sunk within me and I came very near giving up. If I ever needed a friend it is now. Someone to lend a helping hand or speak a word of encouragement. Even a look from you is worth all the greeting I meet elsewhere. I feel too bad to write and I want to, too. I will lie down and see if I can't console myself and gather my thoughts a little. There seems to be something pressing on my mind that I can't get rid of. Have not heard from home for over two months. There may be something wrong there.*

Then he focused on Mr. Ricks. *How does Mr. Ricks seem to think that you owe your society wholly to him? And you have shown him no encouragement. He must be very selfish to claim --- returns when he has no right. I was really beginning to get jealous but since I have met the person, that feeling has vanished entirely. Not that I think I am his superior, but that you will never care much for him.* The next line was crossed out: ~~*Even if you should marry him, I believe you would do well in one sense.*~~ *I shall never give my mind another uneasy thought in regard to him....<u>I must have a change in affairs</u> or will die. Lonesome here is no name for it.*

Wow. That must have worried Nora. But by the time she received it, they had probably already had their time together at the lake. Will was so mercurial in his feelings, so prone to take on huge projects and then plunge into loneliness and despair, I sometimes wonder if he was bipolar.

Ida Maud Ream

By July 15, Will was cheerful again. Maybe his brief encounter with Nora at the lake revived him. Maybe it was just his usual cycling of mood. He wrote he had gotten her letter, one from home, and *one from a friend I never dreamed of. The one from home was very short...but was quite newsy. My cattle are doing well and worth $50 per head. Have been breaking a colt....I thought of myself I have as much land as anybody and as nice a ranch. Edith and the children send their cards...as a token of friendship. Ida is the one you see with my father the favorite of the family. How did you get along on your trip home? I was in Paris when you were loading up to start...on Mr. Collins' porch...but could not get you to see me.* Will had modestly kept out of sight. Maybe he was avoiding Mr. Ricks.

On July 23rd, Will got a mysterious letter from a woman in Oakland, signed "you know who, don't you?" I don't know who, to my great frustration. She reported that Will's letter, which he had sent months ago to *the East* had finally caught up with her. She now lived in San Francisco, but wanted her mail sent to the post office in Oakland. She asked Will to tell Frank that she was angry with him for not writing, and for not sending her letters back to her as asked. Still, she *(hoped) to meet you both this fall on the famous Dingle Dell Ranch.* I suppose Will did know who she was. I wish heartily that I did. In his next letter to Nora he mentioned receiving a plaintive letter from Alace (Alice?) in Frisco. Frank had numerous female friends.

There were no more letters from Will to Nora for a month—again I suppose it is because he had been with her. Perhaps he had gone to Logan for Pioneer Day as he suggested he might. On August 8th he wrote Nora to announce that he was safely home. *Well, we got home all right after a long time. Stopped with Mark and Josie (Farr) when I was in Ogden. They were asking about you.* Will was sorry, but he hadn't had time to stop in Hyrum on the way back.

Oh, how I wish that Will had preserved Nora's letters of that period, especially the predecessor to the one he wrote to her on August 17. I suspect she was pressing him to get a Mormon baptism. *You have known me over one year and ought to know what I am by now or nearly so. I think if I were a <u>coward</u> as you call me I would have played my hand to a very good advantage by joining the church when I first came to Utah and played the base hypocrite. I could have gained many points by doing so. But enough, we will not quarrel....Very sorry I shall be permitted to enjoy your society very little the next year. Got a letter from Mother....She is very disappointed at our not coming back this fall. She speaks more favorably this time of you than heretofore. They made me another offer if I will go back, but I don't see how I can, a very good one, too.*

Nora was developing a long-distance relationship with Emma, Will's older sister. Here's a condensed version of one letter that Emma sent on August 20th from her home in Palmyra, Iowa. *Suffering with neuralgy...not been able to sit up until yesterday....Terrible storm....Stock*

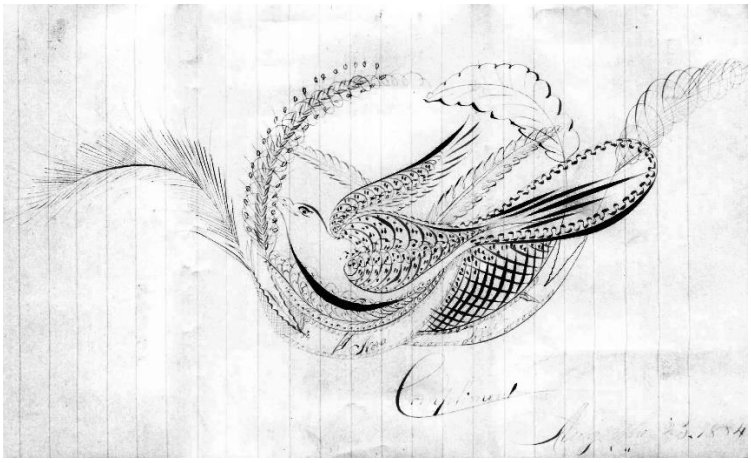
were killed, houses were unroofed....Most of our neighbors left their houses and went to their caves. Thanks for your picture (and) the verse you sent me. Emma was dramatic, but she did have a hard life.

Will wrote August 23, 1884 from the outlet bridge in Dingle. He was fishing alone for a *sick lady on the ranch.* Will had made other references to people there besides Frank and himself. I think Dingle Dell Ranch was a boarding house.

The next day: *No fish.* And Frank was making another move on Nora. *I suppose you met Mr. F. L. He was in Logan or was to have been. I think he will make it a point to call and see you. I knew you would find his letters very interesting but never dreamed of opening communication....The book I sent for you, have you read it yet? I will not be down for some time yet until you want to see me real bad. When you do, tell me so and I will come....I can scarcely bear to think of meeting you only a few times in the coming year. If it must be, I will wait with patience....*I am imagining that Sheriff Crockett had laid down some visiting rules. Or were they imposed by Nora herself?

Emma has not sent a photo. Would you send me the one she sent you....I feel like my letters will not carry the same charm as they did before F.L. commenced writing. He is a better letter writer than I am and his letters will be often looked for....I am thinking of traveling in Southern Utah this winter in the interest of the Western (Publishing) House of Chicago Ill. Have not made up my mind yet. It would be most pleasant to spend the winter with you....I almost wish for a school to teach this winter. I sometimes think I would be more contented....Your pure love for me is all that binds me to this place. Were I to leave here, my mother's prediction would come true, I believe.

Emma Ream Webb



Will enclosed another bird drawing.

I definitely do not agree that Frank wrote better letters than Will. But by September 7, 1884 it was clear that Frank had set up a correspondence with Nora to equal Will's, and she was answering every letter. Will was worried she would like Frank's letters better than his. Will was canvassing for book sales again. He had to because he had hurt his back and could not do farm work. The current book he was featuring was *Plain Facts for Old and Young.* He wrote to Nora, *F.L. spoke of you last evening. Said he met you and you sent me*

your regards. Thanks. I have been with him nearly one year now. Will wrote of Emma: *She loves to extreme and hatred the same way. I think you will find her a pleasant friend (I hope so at least.)* Two days later Will was writing again to Nora. *F. L. has not returned. (He) visited the same group of ladies he wrote about last year in St. Charles. Stacking is done....Can't say I really admire it...too much like work.*

And again on September 14, 1884: *Frost damaged the grain....I don't think I will ever be wholly content in Bear Lake on account of its seasons.* He was right, he never was fully content with Bear Lake in his whole life. *Will be down next Friday if I am well.* He was reading the life of James A. Garfield. *Frank has gone to St. Charles today....He may bring one from you tonight. Haven't heard from Emma for over a month. Only had a card from John in the last 4 or 5 weeks. You are my only regular correspondent and your letters fail to reach me regularly.*

Bertha Lamoreaux

Nora saved a letter written on September 19, 1884 by Bertha Lamoreaux from Paris, Idaho. Bertha was 23, the younger sister of Archie, the husband of Nora's sister Lydia Crockett. Bertha would later marry Theodore Montague in Farmington in 1887 and settle in Preston before July of 1888. She was either teaching or attending school in Paris, living at W. N. B. Shepherd's photo gallery. Bertha wrote that she had *concluded to stay all winter. My quarter will not be through until the latter part of November....When did you see our friend Mr. Ream? I have not seen him since my return. When you see him tell him for me that he must call on me and tell him where he can find me at the photograph gallery....I have not passed only one or too lonesome evenings...but I get homesick sometimes....I have been to St. Charles...but did not go to the lake. I should like very much to have another with the same four that was there before or with Mr. Larsen and Mr. Ream.*

On September 22nd Emma Webb wrote to Nora again. She had been sick for two weeks. *Nora if we should ever meet you will find me better at talking than writing. Ma* (Ream) *is coming to stay a few weeks. Pa has just gone home. He thought if Ma could come...I would get well sooner....Will has not written for several weeks. My sister and her husband are coming to spend the winter with us. They went to Nebraska last May and have become dissatisfied. I am glad....For if they had got as far west as Will is, I am afraid they would not want to come back. Mr. Webb has spent 25 years of his life in the west and it is a long time to me since Will went west.* A neighbor of hers had gone to Washington for ten years and was now back to take his father and mother there.

Now comes the first hard evidence that Will's homesteading cabin was being built. He wrote on October 5, 1884: *Here I am again in my cabin....Wish I was there to enjoy the day like last Sunday...the most pleasant day I have spent in the last year. I am not alone now. Have two little folks visiting me. The little girl I told you of and a little boy, her cousin.* This

was Emma May Bird, who would turn seven that December. Her mother Harriett was 28.[24] *They keep me up such a chat....I like the little girl very much. She's so knowing and tender hearted. Her mother came home from Paris yesterday very sick. She did not have very much to say to May so she went to bed....May was the first up this morning and went to the sofa and looked at her mother, but said nothing. When I came in she left the room and went round the house and commenced crying like her little heart would break. The love of a child. How true. How tender and confiding in a mother's love. I almost think sometimes that true love is held only in the bosom of children and virtue by women....I had intended going to St. Charles to canvass this week, but F. L. wants me to stack grain. F. L.'s (letter) will reach you about the time you get this.*

By October 15th Will's mood had swung negative again. He was worried about Nora's love for him. If I am reading this letter correctly, he was thinking of cutting off their relationship*. One month since I was in Logan and no letter yet....Guess something is wrong with the mail. I drove 22 miles* (I think to Montpelier and back). *The boys wanted me to stay but here I am writing an unwelcome letter I fear.* I think it was in those days considered rude or presumptuous to write before an answer had been received. *I met Miss Humes at the bishop's....She put me so much in the mind of you and of course you occupied my thoughts on the long and lonesome drive.* He was suffering insomnia, in his words, *a demon.* The next day he wrote in the margin: *I shall write you one more letter, at the close of which I shall say good-bye. If I thought you did not get them I would write until you did, but I am sure you have recd. some of them....Met (Frank Larsen) this side of the outlet and sent my horse back with him. This letter will be one day later than his. It may be for the best....But as you don't seem to answer then I guess it makes but little difference.*

I think a letter came from her. Three days later he was writing again from Dingle Dell Ranch pondering religious questions. He said he wanted to *go deep* and gave about a dozen biblical references which he thought *conflicted with your doctrine*.

On October 22nd Will was in Bloomington, canvassing. *I have been spending the most of the time with Mr. M. Dunford....I do not like canvassing any better than I did last year. Hope this will end my work when I get through here. M.D. made known his intention to call on you while in Logan. He will start tomorrow. I like him real well and think him a nice young man. Sorry to think he is not likely to recover. Why can't misfortune visit someone that is less useful than such fellows? Well I hope you will enjoy his society. I do and I think you will, seeing he is an old friend of yours.* This was sincere—no jealousy here. There is more to Moroni Dunford's story to follow shortly.

[24]The Birds would soon have another daughter named Ione, who was a close friend to Mamie Sirrine, Will and Nora's future first daughter-in-law. Wesley Ream wrote that in about 1888 the Birds lived in Frank Larsen's house and Frank boarded with the family. I think Wesley was wrong about the dates, since this story took place near Larsen's house in 1884.

At the end of October, Emma wrote twice in a week to Nora. She had asked for a photograph of the Logan Temple and immediately received one. She urged Nora to visit them in Iowa.

On November 6th Will sent his photo to Nora. He had just finished writing 40 postal cards, probably for his business, and did not feel like writing a long letter. The next time Tom Quayle went to Logan he would bring Will, who said he would give a year of his life to be with her just then. He found time to write a long letter the very next day; his mood was up again. He was now working on his own land, not Frank's.

Have been plowing this afternoon and like it very much. It seems to gage my thoughts....Will have 21 acres plowed this fall. I will soon have the deed for one quarter....I have acquired it (their home) *by the sweat of my brow fulfilling the scripture to the letter. If you appreciate it as much as I have enjoyed getting it for us, I will be doubly recompensed. It may seem rough to you at first sight, but you must remember it is made from raw material and not gathered in a day....I had made arrangement with Mr. W. G. Kimball to meet him at Soda and take a speculating trip into Afon (Afton?) This was when I was at Oxford.* Oxford is north of Preston. He mentioned visiting with Lydia, Nora's older sister in Preston. *Every time I meet with her I think more and more of her. Would you care if I should fall in love with her? I think I would come as near of it as any married lady I ever met with. She is not like Emma,* his older, married sister. *I could see but one trait that put me in mind of her and that was the anxious look in her eyes when she was interested. Emma's eyes are large and not quite so dark, and (she is) not so large as Liddie, only weighting 100 to 110. At any rate they are sisters we need not be ashamed of. Did you say anything to (Tom Quayle)* (He must have gone to Logan without Will after all) *about my intention of joining the Church? I am afraid I will not make as good a Mormon as I should, but I'll try and see all things as near right as I can....Well, the die is cast. I shall soon be a Mormon and always your <u>lover</u> but maybe never your husband. ....We have a SLC gentleman teaching school here. I have not seen him yet. Why just imagine coming here to teach school <u>in Dingle Dell.</u> We are getting quite noted here. Just think, D-D- will soon have an academy and become a noted place in Bear Lake.*

On November 10th, Nora got a letter from Will's friend Moroni Dunford in Bloomington, just across Bear Lake. *While in your beautiful little city I enjoyed myself very much. Should like to have stayed over...and attended Conference there.... (I am) a great lover of good meetings. Some of the brethren promised me if I go there to the temple and be faithful I would do well.* He described the recent earthquake in the valley and asked for her picture.

Years later in his autobiography, Moroni wrote that Bear Lake Stake President William Budge had advised him to go to the Logan temple to get rid of his back pain. He went on October 28, 1884 and was anointed and blessed in a private room. His back pain had been so bad he needed to be carried to the font where he was baptized seven times. Then he walked out of the temple unaided and had little further problem with his back. The next day he received his endowment. In December he was called to be a home missionary. Will

had been wrong, but I'm sure he did not mind. This "useful fellow" did overcome his misfortune.

Evidently Nora was not so sure about Will's sudden decision to become a Mormon. Maybe he was slowing it down a little as well. On November 13th he wrote from Montpelier. *Then you feel doubtful of me carrying out my intentions....It is a question of great weight with me and cannot be decided in a day or a week. It is a step taken I do not wish ever to regret or retrace*. He sent her some teachers' journals.

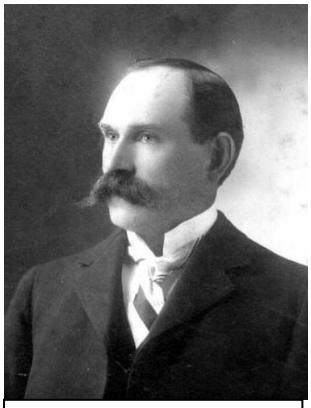
On November 17th Will reported an interesting discovery, that new teacher from Salt Lake at the Dingle school turned out to be Robert Smith, the ex-husband who had left Nora's oldest sister Mary. Smith had gone home to Illinois to marry another woman, but had now landed in Dingle, of all places. (*He) has been teaching two weeks and I never met him till today. He passed from my mind till Frank brought it back by asking me if you had ever spoken about your brother-in-law.* Will had only seen the man at the post office but planned to make his acquaintance. He thought Smith had his new wife with him.

Will had sent for the American Encyclopedia, which would be delivered to Nora in Logan. He also wanted to get her a Webster's dictionary that winter. Will planned to commence delivering (books) tomorrow. *I'm afraid my delivery will be my last.* He had a letter from his little brother James (later known in Dingle as "Uncle Jim"), who moved later to Bear Lake. *All are well at home and are engaged in shucking corn. Frank has stretched himself at full length on the sofa and has given way to monster sleep.*

He wrote again on November 28th, a very long, chatty letter which he hoped would make up for a long gap. Will had been up since 4 a.m. writing business letters, which would have to remain unfinished until he caught up with Nora. He was really feeling pushed with work. He had seen *Miss B. L.* (Bertha Lamoreaux) and *M.D*. (Moroni Dunford, who had returned from Logan.) *I have not started (north) yet, do not want to go very bad. Yes, I will spend Christmas with you to be sure. How do you wish to spend the time? At home alone or someplace else, suit yourself. Emma spoke of you in glowing terms, and of course had some questions to ask. Had a letter from Mother and the two little boys.* He said he wasn't any too comfortable about "Mr. E.R." (Ezra Ricks) making so many visits to Nora but felt it would be selfish to deny anyone access to her society. He had been to Thanksgiving dinner at *Mrs. G. W. Kimball's in Paris*. It was good, but there was no turkey. Calista Kimball had three little girls ages 2-7 and was about eight months pregnant at the time. She was married to William G. Kimball (whom Will had called *G. W.*), one of Heber C. Kimball's many sons. *Look out for F. L. He will be down soon and is in the canyon now. I have not seen him for over two weeks. I don't think I will be in (Logan) with him this winter, don't care much. If I was, he might make his word good—shine me down, in short.* It sounds as if Frank was planning to stay in Logan all winter. I suppose he planned to sell sewing machines, sponsor more dances, and pursue young women—perhaps even Nora.

On December 10th Will wrote from Soda Springs that he would be in Logan for Christmas. *If I don't not have bad luck I shall have to go to Hailey and Ketchum....Had a letter from Emma's*

husband. They are still talking of coming West....Did you see F. L. (Frank Larsen) this time while he was in Logan? Have you received the encyclopedia yet and how do you like it? Wish you could be along to spice the long hours, but it would not be very agreeable on your part. I am afraid Mr. E. R. (Ezra Ricks) and your little Dutchman would be more easily entertained. Hmm. Who was Nora's "little Dutchman?"



Joseph A. Mikel

The next day Nora received a letter from another young suitor named Troy Handy, sent from Bellevue, Idaho. He had met her on a train from SLC to Logan the previous spring. He wrote again on December 24th after she had replied to him. He and a friend, Joe A. Mikel, were working a mine outside of Bellevue, and could only mail letters after a four mile trip on snowshoes. He offered to provide snowshoes to her if she would visit. I did a little research on him and learned that he was born in North Carolina in 1859, so he was 25 years old. He never married and was at some point killed in a landslide "out west." I wonder if that happened in the very mine from which he wrote to Nora. His friend Joe Mikel was from North Carolina, too. They seem to have come west together seeking their fortunes. Bellevue is just outside of Sun Valley. I could not find a photo of Troy, but here is one of his friend.

Emma wrote to Nora from Palmyra on December 15th. *What a grand and noble work a teacher's work is, not exceeded in its far reaching influence for good.* She went on about this for a page, and then, *(I) have but one child, a little girl. She was nine year old last November, 32 inches in height. She stopped growing when she was two years old. I do not think that she will ever grow any taller. I would like to hear you talk German. Grandpa Ream came from Germany but he would never teach any of his children to talk German. We have cousins that can talk it, but they do not like to.*

By December 19th, Will was in Ketchum. Coincidentally he was just 17 miles away from Troy Handy. *I am stopping at the residence of a newly married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, a most agreeable place. (They) have been married 6 mo. It makes me think of the happy future awaiting me. I love this country much better than Bear Lake. Two feet of snow. I left my horse in Pocatello, came by rail. Not succeeding as well as I thought....I'd be the happiest man in the world if I was located here...and have you here too.*

Next Will wrote from Vienna, Idaho. When Will was there it had 800 people and 200 buildings, including a successful newspaper. The town existed between 1879 and 1892, and the ghost remains were destroyed in 1914 from an unknown cause. A roadside sign says that Levi Smiley found gold on Smiley Creek in 1878 near Vienna. Before the mine shut down in 1886, Vienna was a thriving mining camp. Miners supported 14 saloons, three stores, two meat markets, a bank, a hotel, a saw mill, two livery stables, and six restaurants. *I have had very bad luck on this trip. Leave here today and will stop at Shoshone. Fine little place. I like it very much.*

Heber Rich

There were no more letters that year. I suppose Will loaded his horse, Logan, onto the cattle car and took the train straight to Nora for the holidays. After New Year's Will went to Ogden, which was apparently the center for his business connections. He stayed with his friends Mark and Josie Farr. He wrote on January 6, 1885. *Ogden does not seem to be the place it was two years ago. Mr. Heber Rich and I went to the rink and had a good time.* Heber Rich was a son of Charles C. Rich. He was just one year old when the family moved to settle Paris, Idaho. In 1880, when he was still sixteen, Heber had gone to Provo to attend the Brigham Young Academy. He graduated there and was probably attending law school when he became acquainted with Will. The next year he was called on a mission in the Southern States along with two of his half-brothers, Ben and Amasa. *Mark was waiting with the buggy to go home. We drew cuts to see who would have the dishes to wash and I was the unlucky (one)....Mark got the job of (washing potatoes)....Have not been baptized yet, can hardly make up my mind that I am doing the right thing for you and myself.* He related a dream of Nora and her family. He and they were in canoes. The family capsized and Will was washed in a great current out to the ocean with large swells. There was much more. It might be worth carefully analyzing.

Marcus Farr

Then on the 8th he wrote: *I was going to get baptized yesterday evening. All was ready and I thought it would be over soon, but when they commenced questioning me, I soon found that I could not answer them with a clear conscience and told them so. I told them what I believed, but they said I must know, and advised me to wait a while....And now I have told you the truth and believe you will think more of me than if I had lied. I think all will be well in the end. I know you will be greatly disappointed when you read this. (I) will leave Mark's this afternoon and get to Mendon (Friday).*

The same day, Mark's wife Josie also wrote to Nora. *You may think it strange that I, a stranger, should write to you, but as it was the wish of Mr. Wm. Ream that someone tell you the reason why he was not baptized, I take the liberty of addressing you. The Elders (asked) the questions: "Do you believe that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God," and "Have you any conviction that this is the true church?" and one more that I do not exactly remember. To the first he said he could not candidly say yes. To the second he said he had not. He had not read enough about the history of Joseph Smith to know for himself...so they thought until he had studied more it would not be wise...and he thought it better himself.* Good for Will. He was not ready.

On January 16, 1885 Will was in Malad. He dreamed of Nora again. He said if she would write more often he *would not be so apt to take the society of others (young ladies.)* On the 20th he was still in Malad. *As a favor...send me the <u>Museum of Antiquity</u>. I can't get one from Chicago as soon as from (Logan).... Have not heard from you yet, and more surprising, not*

from Frank. I am destined to disappointments, it seems. He continued having disturbing dreams of her.

Still in Malad on January 23rd, Will wrote the following, inexplicably on the county sheriff's stationary. *I do not wish you to curtail your correspondences on my account. If you derive any pleasure by writing to them, I have no objections (just a little fib) or can stand the punishment, for I justly merit it, but if you quit all but me, I will try and write enough to fill their vacancy....I got a chart of my head today and while the Prof. was telling me what kind of a wife I should get, I showed him your picture and asked him if he thought you would do for me. (Was this a breach of trust?) He of course thought you were my intended and said we would make a good couple.* Will then went into a lengthy account of his interactions with the phrenologist.

On January 25, 1885 Will wrote to Nora from Samaria, Idaho. *Well the reason I expected a letter from (Frank) was this: When I left him...we had not come to any conclusion in regard to some of business and we were to meet at Mendon on Tues., but I left there early and did not see him and I thought he would write immediately. I looked for a letter from him sooner than I did from you. This is why I made the remark....I won't make it (down) in time for conference.*

Will was back in Malad on January 28th and was reading the Doctrine and Covenants and examining it carefully. *How strange that they differ so, the one published in 1880 and the one published in 1852. God's word, you know, never changes....The differences in the issue of 52, the revelation on marriage is altogether different....It seems that the Devil puts everything like that in my way. I try not to think of it but can't help it. I keep from bad society...but then...my mind will hatch up these uncalled for ideas and keep them turning in my mind. I am quite interested in the book, will read it over again.*

Three days later, Will was in Oxford, still deep into the study of Mormonism. He wrote to Nora... *(received a letter today) from our cousin Teena Goldizen. Was just a little surprised....Had not heard from her for several years, worst of all she has changed her name. She wrote "P.S. Please send your picture and your girl's also." She was a fine young lady when last we met. Good looking and intelligent. I think you would like her....* This was Will's cousin Teenia Murphin, 21 year old daughter of Nancy Ream's brother, James. She had gotten married the previous March.[25] *Send the <u>Key to Theology</u>—I have never read it and fancy it is just the book I want.* This was probably Parley Pratt's book published in 1855. *You say you know that Mormonism is true (as many others do) and I am inclined to believe it more fully than ever and look for something to confirm my belief, which I have never done before....Had a good time at the YMMIA.*

On February 8th in Weston, Will was glad to hear that Nora was pleased with Prof. Thompson's opinion. *Will be in Preston this week and may come to (Logan) on Saturday. Not very well at present. Oh! How tired I am of such a life as I am leading. And you would*

[25] I discovered that in 1886, Teenia had a little girl one month before Wesley was born to Will and Nora, and sadly, Teenia died in 1888 at age 24.

like to go to school, would you? Well, don't let the idea carry you too far so you will be tempted to practice it.

Emma wrote again to Nora on February 10th. *Will wrote us...that his partner was going to visit the World Exposition at New Orleans. He said (Frank) was going to stop a few days at Chariton (but) Mr. Webb and I wanted to go home (to Palmyra) while he was there. Will thought it would be out of (Frank's) way to come by Des Moines and see us. Will was to write and let us know when (Frank) would start (but) we have failed to get any word yet.*

Will was now in Battle Creek, Idaho. He had already arrived in Preston, but had ridden to that spot on a horse ride with Nora's brother-in-law, Archie Lamoreaux.[26] *I write with the heaviest heart I have ever had in my life...most miserable since we parted. Nora do you still think as much of me as you did Monday? If you can, answer this by letter. I love thee as dear as life and to have to give you up after waiting so long it will almost kill me.... (Archie and I) rode along...for over two miles.... He wanted to know what I was so depressed for. I told him I felt just like I did when I came down from Wood River...that I had lost a portion of your love or you was paying attention to some other.* Will was probably referring to his visit to Ketchum the previous December, when he was coincidentally in the same area as Troy Handy. *I am very sorry in the way I have acted and must say I have done one act in my life I sincerely regret and always will. The blow has fallen with full force on my own head and almost crushed me....Forgive me just once more is all I ask.* I wonder what Will had done wrong.

Will stayed several days in Preston, selling books and visiting with Nora's brothers and sister there. On February 23rd, he sent this letter from Preston. *Dear girl you are worthy of the best of men and so often I think I would like to be better than I am so I could pay you four fold in return for the love you have given me. I am stopping with Ozro....Will go to Franklin tomorrow with David and will be in Logan on Friday at your home if all is well. I have had some very good talks with Archie....I think more of him and Lidie than ever before, how loving and affectionate they are. I gave the place* (his sales territory in Preston) *to Archie and will leave it for him to finish.*

Three days later Will was in Logan and dropped a note at the post office for Nora. *I arrived in town this morning and will be up to see you this evening....Will not give you a lengthy letter, we'll talk instead.* He stayed in Logan for just a couple of days, and then was off to Colliston, which is about 16 miles directly west of Logan, out of Cache Valley near Tremonton.

[26]Battle Creek is not a town, but the confluence of a small creek with the Bear River just north of where Preston was settled in 1877. It was the site of the Bear River Massacre in which between 224 (the military's count) and 493 (the count of one of the settlers) Shoshone Indians were killed by a contingent of soldiers led from Ft. Douglas in Salt Lake City by Colonel Patrick Edward Connor. The Indians had made a winter encampment in a large ravine where Connor's infantry and cavalry attacked them in cold winter conditions in 1862. The vastly outnumbered Mormons living in Franklin had appealed to the government for help when they felt the Indians were threatening them. Colonel Connor, who had already been frustrated by Indian raids on travelers headed along the Oregon Trail to the gold fields in the northwest, felt the attack was justified and meant to exterminate the Shoshones.

The railway from Ogden to Pocatello goes right through Colliston, and so does the track from Wellsville, so it was probably an important and frequent stop for him. *I did not get off as I expected. Roads are very bad. I am expecting some trouble getting through with this delivery. To begin with, I am not in as good spirits as I might be. Here I have been interrupted by a Miss and have just sent her into the other room to read a note I wrote to get rid of her congenial presence. You may know her. She is called Eliza Jemmett.* I looked into the Jemmett family. Eliza was 19 years old. They must have known each other before, through numerous visits. He wrote that he hadn't been able to get a rig to take his freight and had arranged to stay in Colliston overnight. Will had hoped to borrow Mr. Jemmett's buggy and drive it himself, but Jemmett was away in Ogden. Will had to telegraph him and hadn't heard back. He decided he would send the boxes on the stage line. Will was evidently distributing ordered books. *I had a pleasant evening when I stopped. Little Molly came and slept with me. She was so glad to see me, she is so sweet and pretty.* Indeed she was, as you can see in this photo. She was only eleven at the time of Will's visit, but sleeping with him seems a little problematic to me. He interrupted his writing because the boys had become so noisy. Molly's brothers were four and 15 years old. Will finished the letter the next morning sitting on a board braced against the stable, waiting for the men to take his goods to the stage. He opined that the people in that town were the most selfish of any in the West.

Molly Jemmett a few years later

Henry Jemmett

The Jemmetts are an interesting family. Henry Jemmett was an immigrant from Preston, England, a sailor by profession. He had sent his wife and children to Zion in 1863 a year before he could afford to come himself and was one of the first settlers in Cache Valley, having lived in a dugout in Hyrum before relocating to an 80 acre farm which later became Colliston. He worked for the railroad there, but also had a livery stable, a saloon, and did a lot of freighting, all of which would probably have been interesting to Will. Well, maybe not so much the saloon. His wife Eliza ran a boarding house, which is no doubt how Will first became acquainted with the family.

In the meantime, there was more correspondence between Frank Larsen and Nora. In answer to a letter from her, he sent a long, friendly missive from New Orleans, where he was a tourist at the World Exposition.[27] Frank's letter was written from inside the Mexican

[27] The World's Fair was sponsored by the National Cotton Planter's Association to celebrate the centennial of the export of cotton from the south to England. The fair covered 33 acres reaching to the shore of the Mississippi River, making it accessible by rail, riverboat and ocean liner. The largest, most impressive building was built by the country of Mexico. Twenty-seven nations, three colonies, 38 states and all U.S. territories except Utah participated. The horticulture hall was 600 x 194 feet, the largest greenhouse in the world. The famous Liberty Bell was shipped down from Philadelphia on exhibit.

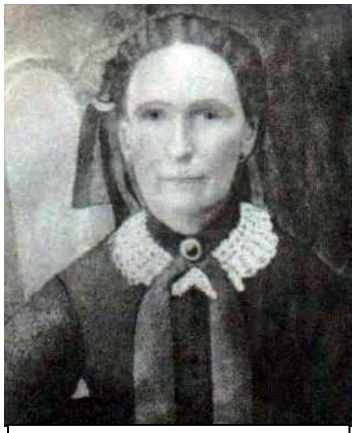
Government Building, which was pictured on the letterhead....*You can't tell how proud I am to think that I am a citizen of a Republic whose various states can make such a display of art, industry and nature's beauty....You must see to feel it. On my (way) out here today I received your letter....I was so glad to hear from you....I have had one letter from Mr. Ream since I came here....I believe I told you once that I thought you could do better than wear yourself out in school. Nora I am not a flatterer, but I think you would grace any position. When you are at the head of a family I would wish I would be known then as Frank and feel at home....What I said to Mrs. Webb about you is not for me to report. When you see her you can ask her. She is a fine little woman and treated me like a prince....When I return I will call and see you. Oh, I wish you were here to keep me company....My Boston correspondent is in Oakland.* This would be Miss "you know who." *She seemed very much disappointed when I didn't go east last year—as I had partly expected—and when she learned I was going this year when she was not there, she expressed disgust. Don't know if she really cares so much to see me, but it seems so. Jessie R.'s friend I did not get to see either. Write a reply to this here. From F. L.*

Frank Larsen

Frank had been to see Will's parents and made a special trip to Palmyra, Iowa to see Emma and Mart, whom he had missed in Benton Township. Evidently he made a great impression. Emma fairly gushed as she related the experience to Nora on March 5th: *We have met Mr. Larsen. He made us a short visit. It seemed short to us. He was with us three days, we was glad to have him come and we were disappointed to think he could not stay longer with us. Mr. Larson makes a good appearance. He appears to be an honest man. I am glad that Will fell in company with him. Mr. Larsen does not speak very favorably of Iowa. He never could have visited the state of Iowa in a worse time. The roads were blockaded with snow....Mr. Larsen promised us that he would come back by Des Moines to call and see us again. He wants to visit the Capitol of Des Moines. It was so stormy...he thought it best to wait until he came back. I think (by then) he will find that the state...has changed. We have not heard from him since he left, only through the Utah Journal. I am looking for Pa today...by the 12 oclock train.*

The same day, Will wrote Nora from Cherry Creek, Idaho. He was nearly to Malad, but Mr. Davis would not hear of him going on. Will was following up the swing through Malad that he had made in January taking orders, now making the deliveries, so by now he was well known. *Having very good luck so far. Have had some bother in getting the freight here on account of road. Have you heard from F.L. lately? I am watched close as a spy which makes the trip just a little inconvenient.* Anti-polygamy sentiment was high. In Idaho the marshals

were picking up polygamists, and strangers of Will's age were looked upon with great suspicion. This must have been making his business much harder.


Sarah Ann (Sally) Curtis

On March 7th Nora's mother Sophia Crockett wrote her a letter from Payson. She had gone down to be with her family, the Reeds. *I just got your Aunt to bed.* This is Sophia's older sister, Sarah Ann, age 59. She would die in June. Sophia wrote an update on all the other Reeds in Payson including her other siblings, Sarah's children, and 9 year old Henry, Nora's youngest brother. She wanted to know how everyone was doing in Logan. *Ask (your sister) Mary how she would like to go to Grass Valley to teach.* Grass Valley, Utah is south of Koosharem. *Your aunt thinks she would do well to go and teach there if they want a teacher. Give my love to Mary and children. Tell Mary that I hope she is well before this time. This letter will have to do for both for it is getting late....Tell Roxie that her Aunt S. A. would write...but is not able.* Sophia wrote again the next day: *I have just got your Aunt to bed....She is so poorly she coughs most all night....Is poor as a snake and the color of a corpse. It almost scares me to look at her. I have been doctoring her. Nahum* (age 22) *goes a sparking* (he was engaged to be married in August, so I wonder if sparking was related to that) *every week and Fred* (19) *takes the girls home from meeting.* I don't think there were any younger sisters—"the girls" must mean the girls at church*....It seems like being in a different world from Logan....Henry* (Sophia's son, age 10, whom she obviously took with her to Payson) *has asked me several times to go home so he could go to school.* Sophia was the youngest of the Reed children, 52 years old. Sarah Ann was a widow of two years. She had six married children but only Zilpha was still living in Payson and had her hands full with five kids. So Sophia was truly needed there.

On March 10, 1885 Will wrote from Oxford. He told Nora not to work too hard. *I suppose you read F. L. letter of the seventh of March from St. Louis and New Orleans.* Frank must have told Will that he had written it. *Had a letter from Emma....She said Frank was coming back (to Iowa) with me next fall.*

The next letter was written on March 21st from Richmond, just 13 miles north of Logan. Will had returned to Logan, probably around March 11th, having completed his deliveries. I assume he was able to spend time there with Nora, and now he was on his way to Archie's, beginning another sales circuit. *Don't think I'll do much at the book business this trip—the odds are against me, being an entire stranger. I am suspected too strongly to make a success and will not follow it any longer. I can't find even the men I know, let alone strangers.* He was looking for the bishop and found no one who would direct him, thinking he might be a polygamy agent. *So you can see book selling will be rather dull for me, so I will leave off until things take a change and get some of the boys* (I think he may have meant Archie and Ozro) *to work for me....Saw you and Mary at the post office and passed you by Dr. Ormsby's. Must feed my horse before breakfast and sell a book.*

Horatio H. Merrill

On March 27th from Smithfield, Will wrote that his trip had been unsuccessful for many reasons. *Keep $100 for me please.* That was a strange request. It sounds as if she had been managing his money for him—I don't think he was asking her for her own money. *I am stopping at Mr. H. H. Merrill's.*[28] *Came here yesterday....I'm thinking of going North as soon as I get my crop in. Times are too dull to make much here.* Sounds like he might be trying to put in a crop at his property in Wellsville before going to Dingle. *Fall will soon be here and our wedding must not be put off. Well, I'll find some way out of the difficulty. Are you still teaching or have they closed your school? Have you heard from F.L.? All that I am able to gather is that every stranger is an officer and the polygamists are dodging to keep out of their sight, which is quite laughable in some instances and in others quite serious. I have been almost unable to find an old acquaintance....I was taken for an officer by all that did not know me and of course business was dull.* He had been having disturbing dreams about Nora. He would tell her about it when he came down.

By March 31, 1885 Will was in Logan, writing to Nora. This one was certainly a love letter. *I shall (keep my promise) so I can say with a clearer conscience than ever before that I am truly pleased with my choice and believe you true to your promise, which makes me perfectly satisfied. "I love you" has been repeated many times and all I can say tonight is the same. I mean it in its full sense....This much more I will say, that your love is well placed and I think you will never see the day that you'll be sorry that you loved me. I feel happy and confiding in you tonight. No doubts are resting on my mind in regard to your constancy and I hope you will be as free as I am from such ideas....I am only too anxious to see October come and bring good success....My love for you is beyond expression of words.*

Will's sister Emma wrote again April 7th. *Pa and my little Brother has just gone home today. We are looking for Mr. Larsen every day. He said he wanted to be here by the first of April.* She loved her flowers and chickens in spring. *Mr. Webb says I must not count my chickens before they are hatched.* She was glad Nora's school had closed and she could enjoy vacation.

There was another gap of 2-3 weeks in Will's letters, suggesting the couple had that amount of time together in Logan, but by April 18th, Will wrote from Soda Springs, *Frank will be there no doubt by the time this reaches you and you won't be so lonesome. Be good and think well of me.* And then three days later he wrote: *Hard at work today....Prospects are good for our union this fall and I feel light hearted and gay concerning it. Don't you?*

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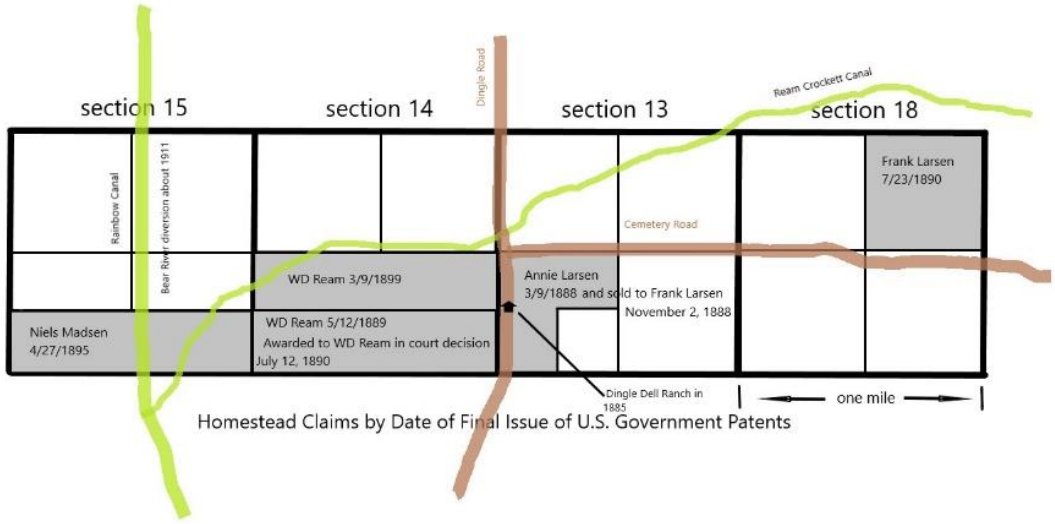
[28] Horatio H. Merrill was born in New York in 1838. He had lived in Smithfield since at least 1863 working as a carpenter, wheelwright, and leather worker. He was widowed twice and moved with his third wife and young family to Pima, Arizona, where he was later tragically killed along with his 14 year old daughter Eliza Ann by Apaches.

By May 3rd Will was at the Dingle Dell Ranch. The river was flooding. *I got your letter by fording Bear River for it* (to get to Montpelier)....*The water came very near taking Logan downstream.* Logan was his horse, of course. *Dalrymples lost their wagon and one horse.* Here Will was referring to Henry Dalrymple, the bishop in the town that was later to be called Wardboro, just a mile north of Dingle. The bishop was a polygamist with two families that he had moved across the valley from Paris, where they had been early settlers. Other than Henry's brothers, Oscar and Edgar, who lived on either side of him, the next closest neighbor was David Crockett Stuart, who had married Frank Larsen's sister, Mary. *(The bishop) and his son and half-sister were crossing and one of the horses lay down and the other pulled it and the wagon nearly across, when the stream took them into deeper water that the true horse could pull them no longer and the wagon began to turn over. Miss D. climbed on one of the hind wheels and as it was turning she kept on the hub until her brother came to her rescue...but (he) could not relieve the honest horse, for the other one was dead. The wagon was turning over all of the time.*

Ida and Albert Dimick

Will was in Wardboro to visit Frank's sister Mary. In the process he took a boat ride with Mary's stepdaughter, Ida Isabella Stuart, in the Bear River, which ran by their farm. I'm surprised that he had gotten back into the water so quickly after his mishap. He wrote: *She is a lady of 16 summers, almost as tall as you are with blue eyes and fair complexion. Not much to say, but bold and resolute and quite clever with a boat, in fact better than myself.* Six months later, Miss Stuart was married to Albert Dimick, her nineteen year old neighbor.

Will had put in 26 acres of grain the past two weeks. *I...have been working from 5 to 9 & 10. T.Q. putting in 14 to 16 hr. per day.* I don't know who T.Q. was. Probably his name was Tom Quayle. There was a William Quayle who with his family was one of the first to settle in Dingle in 1876, but he had no sons in 1885 whose name began with T. *I have fallen away nearly one lb. a day. It is 1¼ mile from the house to the field and I have started before sunrise and without breakfast several mornings. I have done all of my work. Sowed, harrowed, and picked sage. I harrowed all over 4 times, which is equivalent to harrowing 100 acres besides sowing all of it and breaking five acres.* I've been trying to figure out which field he was working. It had probably never been plowed since he needed to go over it four times with the harrow and remove sage brush. His own homestead began just across the road west of the house and extended a mile to the west border of section 14—there was no need to walk over a mile to get there. The land which he farmed with Frank Larsen and later led to a legal dispute, was Will's southern piece of section 14. Maybe he had been working in section 15, which extended west of the farthest border of Will's land. The piece in section



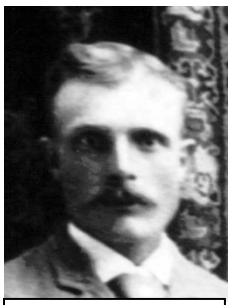
15 had been homesteaded by Niels Madsen, who was living in Bloomington until about 1890. After that he moved to Dingle for ten years before moving permanently to Odessa, Big Horn, Wyoming. That homestead piece had been divided into four "lots," possibly because some of the land had not been usable, which did not fill the entire potential 160 acres. Possibly Madsen had sold the rights to his claim to Will and Frank in anticipation of later moving. It is also possible that Will was working on Frank's piece east of the cemetery, but that would have been 1½ miles to walk.

Neils Madsen

Will planned to leave for Blackfoot on the 6th of May. *Had a letter from F. Lavritter from Chariton—don't think he will be here before the 15.* It appears that he was expecting a friend from home. I was not able to figure out anything more about Lavritter. Will hoped to be in Logan by the time Nora's school closed for the summer.

On May 6, 1885 Will continued the same letter, saying he had left for Blackfoot that morning and was now in Montpelier. I think he had been summoned to Blackfoot, Idaho for jury duty on a polygamy case. The local Mormons in Bear Lake had urged him to participate on the all-gentile panel, hoping that he would be relatively sympathetic to the Mormons' position, and he felt it was his duty to do it, although greatly inconvenient for him.

The next day he wrote from Soda Springs, still on his way to Blackfoot on horseback via Fort Hall.


Sydney Call

On May 8th he was in Chesterfield, stopping with Mr. and Mrs. Call, the same young couple that he stayed with the previous winter. This would be Sydney B. Call and Henrietta. Sydney was a 22 year old son of Anson Call—Henrietta was 15. *Address me in Blackfoot*, Will wrote. *I think I will be there till the 18th as the Grand Jury will not set till then. If I can I shall leave sooner.*

That same day, Archie Lamoreaux wrote from Logan to Will, reporting on the book business: *Only taken five orders this week. I hope to take two tomorrow, then I will have fifty in Logan. E. Kessler, SLC, has sent up to get someone to take the agency for a literary work that is selling in Salt Lake and Ogden. Agents making from $20 to $35 a week.* Archie wanted to proceed on his own if OK with Will.

The next day, on May 9, 1885 in Utah, Chief Justice Zane put out a ruling that even visiting with one's wife over the fence constituted cohabitation. This anti-Mormon fervor was just as strong in Idaho. Will could sense it acutely in Blackfoot. At some point that year, the Idaho legislature instituted a test oath prohibiting not only polygamists but also Mormon sympathizers from holding state government positions in Idaho. A year later that restriction even included school teachers. Will wrote on May 10th to Nora. *I believe (lively times) are coming. I have been told that they have commenced in Bear Lake. Yesterday there was some arrests attempted and the people rebelled and led the marshals out of town....I don't know how the tables will turn. I don't feel uneasy yet.* He was hoping to get out of jury duty. He liked the land in the Blackfoot area.

The next day Will wrote again to Nora. He had just been dismissed from the jury in the polygamy case. He was glad, but sorry that the man who would replace him was a Mormon hater. They were packing the jury against Mormons. He was in Pocatello on May 15th. I have no letters written during the next two weeks. I assume some of that time was spent camping out—he was riding his horse cross country.

Before he got back to Bear Lake the marshals had made a raid on Paris and nabbed Samuel Humpherys. He was sentenced to six months in the penitentiary at Boise and fined $300 for cohabitation. Before his release from prison, Humpherys was called to be the bishop of the Dingle Ward. He moved his families across the valley that December as soon as he had returned from prison.

On June 2nd, Will informed Nora that he was back in Dingle, working hard. He would not be to Logan until the 10th to 15th. He wanted Nora to meet him at Archie's in Preston. Will did not know it yet, but his last sibling, Elda Lena Ream, was born that day in Benton Township, Iowa.

Emma wrote to Nora again on June 10th. She supposed that Frank Larsen must have called on Nora by then. Frank had not written to Emma and Mart since he left Kansas City—it seemed a long time to Emma, and she had thought of him often. *(Mart) says if I only lived near Frank and Will I would have a good time with them. When the* Journal *comes he is first to see if there is a letter in it from Frank.*

An undated letter from Will came to Nora from Georgetown, Idaho. She had told him that Frank was back in Logan. *I am stopping at Bishop Lewis', a very nice place. Well did you have a good time with F. L? He was so long coming back (I don't know whether he has come yet. Had not when I left the ranch.) I have begun to think you had made some impression on him, or he on you....Have not had a letter for a long time. Well if you find more pleasure in*

Frank's than my letters, it is all right. He will exert all of his power to outshine me. May work in the harvest field next week. I dread it as I don't like harvesting....Would almost as soon teach school. Bought a calf here, will have some fun taking it home today.

Your letter telling of F. L. was read today with pleasure. But I don't think Will trusted Frank with Nora. *I have but a few moments to write you...not feeling well....F.L is looked for every day but I am going to quit looking....You must have changed a little since you have seen Frank. You do not sign your name as before. It may be that you are somebody else's girl. Well you should have told F. what you was going to do.* I think he meant that she should have told Frank of their upcoming wedding. *I will be off for the North as soon as I have come to Logan.*

Then Frank showed up at the Dingle Dell Ranch. On June 16, 1885 Will wrote: *Well Frank has arrived and looks well. I have enjoyed his company very much. He looks the same as he ever did. You could not have told that he had been to New Orleans.* Will wrote again the very next day. He was still working very hard on the ranch; his weight had dropped to 175. He had put off his trip to Logan again, would not be arriving until July. He was still stewing about Frank's coziness with Nora. *Nora what was (it) that Frank said that pleased your mother and why did you say good-bye in your letter? You always told me never to say good-bye unless I was in earnest. Was you? What has gone wrong? Your letters seem to have a chilling tone to them. What has changed you?*

Will apparently went to Logan this time via Ogden; he had business to attend to, but it was held up by the July 4th procession. Will thought Nora would have been a more beautiful Goddess of Liberty than the woman that the Ogden people chose. He would be with her in Logan in a day or two.

William Dewine Ream was baptized into the Mormon Church on July 8, 1885 according to a form associated with his posthumous temple endowment, which was performed by his son Wesley on June 19, 1940. I have found no official documentation of the baptism. The location of the baptism was not noted on the form. It is possible that Josie and Marcus Farr arranged a second, more successful baptismal interview with the Ogden elders. I could see Will doing that to avoid the appearance of giving in to the insistent Crocketts. But it seems more likely to me to have been done in Logan—if for no other reason, his arrival there had been way overdue. Wesley wrote in his autobiography that when years later the Dingle Ward leaders lacked the documentation of this baptism, they insisted that it be re-done. Will refused, declaring that once was enough for him. That would not be his only defiance of them. But on September 5, 1998 nearly 60 years after his death, Will was re-baptized in the Logan Temple for the sake of the record, when he was no longer alive to prevent it.

On July 19th Will was back in Bear Lake Valley. He felt that Nora was not writing often enough, a frequent complaint of his. *Frank came home and brought a letter he had just received from you. I was glad to hear from you even in that way....I did not get home until Sunday evening and ever since, I have been <u>working</u>....Has Archie received the books yet? I have a letter from J. A. Moore* (in Chicago) *stating that he had shipped them, and the (post)cards, he said he did not have enough....Archie will have to write them if he has not*

Raking hay in Dingle

already done so....My grain looks well and I think it will be good if the frost don't freeze it. Will was busy. He waited an uncharacteristically long ten days to write again on August 1st. *Unloaded three loads of hay before breakfast, Frank stacked them.* Will couldn't understand why Nora had decided to teach that fall—he would much rather have her with him than have the money she would earn. *But do as you like. I suppose Archie got his books OK....Had the bill some time ago stating that they had been shipped, some by freight and other by express.*

He made a quick trip Logan to see Nora right after that. On August 15th, a day after he left her, Nora sent a letter after him. A friend of hers had passed him while he was going up Logan Canyon. They had not spoken, but Nora could tell by the girl's description that she had seen Will. Nora missed him. The trustees wanted her to teach. She was trying to say no, but they were persistent. What did Will think she should do? She was sick of the classroom.

Will wrote back on August 18th. *Reached the ranch last Tuesday. Came home via Logan Canyon, camped at Rick's spring all alone.* His horses had run away from him and he had to catch them. *I told the folks I (and you) would be home in October for the wedding. What day do you wish it to be on? I hope after the 15th.* It was not to actually happen until November 11th. *I am so glad that you are not going to teach. I believe you thought I would like for you to teach. This is the impression I had at Hyrum, but really Nora I did not want you to teach and am so glad you are not going to I can hardly express my feelings....Must go to Ogden and one or two other places. Are you going to Mrs. Unsworth's silver wedding? Make some good excuse for me please.* Alice Crockshott Unsworth was the post-mistress in Hyrum. Her husband James was an original settler, a school teacher, and founded the school in Hyrum, likely having worked with Nora. Ironically, he missed his own silver wedding party, having left July 17th for a mission to England, leaving Alice and his other wife Mina plus 22 children.

James and Alice Unsworth

On August 23rd Nora wrote again from Logan. Will was starting to save her letters! She had changed her mind again and wanted to teach the fall term and get married in November unless Will wanted to teach too and finish out the year in Logan with her. *Ma is reading a detective book, Aunt Mary (is reading) the Bible, and the children their school books. Pa nor the rest have not come home from Preston yet....I opened school this morning with but twelve pupils, but there will be quite a number more tomorrow. Mr. Langton had but nine....It seems quite natural to be back again in the old stone building on the hill....I got a letter from Mary tonight and should answer*

it but we had company come. Nora saved that letter from her oldest sister, the one whose former husband was now teaching school in Dingle. Mary was teaching in Almy, Wyoming, a so-called string town five miles long of 4,000 people just outside of Evanston lining the two sides of the Bear River. Almy was the product of three booming coal mines that supported the transcontinental train traffic. Later, after three horrendous mine explosions, the town closed in 1900. I was there recently. It is not a ghost town; there is no sign of it left. It is hardly even a memory, just a commemorative road sign. Mary had written that she was feeling blue when Nora's letter arrived, otherwise she would have been *bluer than a bottle of indigo*. She told of her tour with Mr. Fishburn, her trustee, down into the #2 coal mine.

Will wrote that he was planning on making the long-promised trip to Chariton—would she go with him or not? He had promised his mother. He proffered a side trip to New Orleans, saying that Frank might take a lady partner and they would have *a nice little company of four.*

Their letters were passing each other in the mail, which resulted in miscommunications.

Will wrote on August 26th. *Don't work too hard—I want to see you looking well when I come for you. I must write a letter home this morning and with it send our disappointment. Nora would you prefer going in November or waiting till spring?*

Nora was writing to Will that same day. *I was ashamed when I read in your letter that you were glad I was not teaching, for you had not yet gotten my letter stating that I was.* She had 26 pupils. I don't have Will's response, but I can imagine it. She answered it from her classroom on August 28th: *Sorry to learn you were very much disappointed—I think it best that I should teach this one term only, don't you?...Archie is down now. I do not think he has had very good luck delivering his books*. *How would I like that trip to (New Orleans)? Ever so much! But it looks almost impossible to me. It would be real nice if Frank would go and take someone with him, but I hardly think he will.*

On the 30th Will announced that he couldn't really get down to Logan until after November 1. He'd had a quarrel with a man about getting his grain cut when promised. The quarrel got the desired result. He wrote, *Nora I will try and keep out of contention and quarrels as long as possible but one thing sure, my rights has got to be respected by all men. I do not wish to domineer and won't suffer it even if I must quarrel a little.* That seems to have been his motto for the rest of his life.

Meanwhile, Nora was writing from home in Logan. They were discussing whether to marry in October or in November. He could not get away from the ranch and she could not get away from teaching. She had received another long letter from her sister Mary, who had just returned to Almy from Cheyenne, where she and Mr. Fishburn had been to a Wyoming state teachers' convention. Mary was agog. *Cheyenne is the wealthiest city of its size in the world.* I think she also had a thing for Mr. Fishburn.

Around September 12, 1885 Will wrote Nora from the Dingle Dell Ranch*, I am done harvesting, Frank is not. I will not have as much grain as I expected. May come down as soon as done stacking. Frank is going home* (Will is speaking of Chariton) *with us this winter. I have been trying to get him to get married and take his wife along. He may but I hardly think he will. If he don't, I believe he is doomed to a single life. Now is the time and if he fails I don't think he will ever have another chance....P.S. I wrote Archie and told him to send the money to J. A. Moore. If he has not will you send it? First write a line and sign my name. (Archie) said he left the money with you. Mr. Moore is in quite a hurry for it and I don't blame him.* Evidently Mr. Moore did not get paid, as we shall see.

Nora answered, *I am real glad you are coming down....Busy since school began....The Supt. ...complimented me nicely on my success....My black board work was the best he had seen.* Next day: *Lonesome....I am glad if F. L. will go back with us but I had rather he took a wife with him. I think Frank ought to get married, that is if he wants to.*

On September 20th Will wrote, *Mrs. Larsen has had me helping her drive flies out of the house....Yes, I am done harvesting and will be done stacking this week. I will be down in eight or ten days. Have you set the time for our wedding? November is as good for me as any month and you know what day will suit you best.* It appears that Franks' mother Annie Larsen was staying at Dingle Dell Ranch.

Will wrote to Nora on October 8th from the Ogden train depot. He was preparing for the wedding and the honeymoon, and probably also taking care of his business. *I am here but can't get off on the train. When I called at the store I found they had changed my coat and I will have to wait till tomorrow and then I will have word from headquarters in regards my tickets. We can go to New Orleans as cheap as we can go home, so I think we will take tickets to that place. Hoping you will not be disappointed badly.*

Apparently he visited Nora after that, and likely stayed a couple of weeks. On October 24th Will wrote to Nora from Montpelier. He had just arrived, having had a pleasant trip including dinner with Bishop Joseph C. Kimball in Meadowville, about six miles from Laketown.[29] Will had evidently come from Hyrum via Blacksmith's Fork Canyon. Will's horse Logan was ill, and had to be led the rest of the way to Dingle. Will got a ride with *Stewart*, probably his friend Charley.

Nora's oldest sister Mary Smith, launched a last minute attempt to thwart the marriage. *I am sorry you are not going to teach any longer. I hate to give you up to Mr. Ream. Home will hardly seem <u>like</u> <u>home</u> without my dear Nora sister. I never wanted you to get married but as you are so determined, I pray God to bless you...that you will have more roses than thorns....O sister mine, why don't you wait a few years longer so that I can enjoy your society. You must not think that it is because you are marrying the one that you are, for I do not know but what*

[29] Joseph C. Kimball was one of many sons of Mormon apostle Heber C. Kimball. Meadowville was originally named Kimballville. At the time of Will's visit, 20% of Meadowville's 120 residents had the surname of Kimball including two of Heber's 43 plural wives.

your "Dear Will" is as good as any <u>man.</u> I will send the money I owe you. She had had no luck at all with marriage herself. I don't think she thought well of men in general.

Not getting satisfaction from Will, his book selling business contact in San Francisco had turned to Frank. The fact that Frank was known to the company is evidence that he had been a part of Will's sales force at some point. Obviously, Frank just passed this letter on to Will, rather than answering himself, since we have it.

From Law, King, and Law Publishing House, J.A. Moore to Mr. Frank Larsen, St. Charles, ID. October 28, 1885. *My Dear Sir—I am sorry that you do not respond to my last letter and will be compelled to bring action at once for the recovery of the balance of $36.80. Mr. Ream treats my letters with silent contempt, not deigning to answer any of them. And he compels me to take action, which I am very sorry to do. Please let me hear from you by return mail. And oblige yours very truly, J. A. Moore.*

Nora wrote to Will that same day. She was busy getting dresses made and lining up a substitute teacher. *Miss Clara Rice will take my school. She came up last Monday and stayed all day with me. I have given up German and attended what seems to be my last "teachers' class" for a time at least yesterday.* She had sewed up her little brother Hite's head with John's help after he was kicked in the forehead by the sorrel. Hite was a nickname for Hyrum Enos Crockett. He was 12 years old at this time, but would eventually become the Secretary of State in Utah. I think the John she referred to was John Alvin Crockett, their 11 year old half-brother.

On October 29th before he had received the above letter, Will wrote from Montpelier that he would not arrive on the first as hoped, more likely before the 5th. *Tomorrow is your last day of school. I would like to have been there.* Two days later he wrote again. *Your letter to Frank was received by him this morning. I was the unhappy bearer. I got it for him last night and gave it to him this morning just as he and Mr. Bird were going hunting. Frank is well and hearty and will leave the ranch for (Logan) next Wednesday. This is all at present. I am leaving the Valley today. In my last I asked you to write me at Preston. I wished since, (that) I had not done so, for I may not call. It has been over a month since I had a letter from you....Why Frank deserves more than myself I can't tell, unless you think there is more gained by writing him. I have wished that it had been delivered unknown to me, for I really do not feel good over it. The other one hurt me but I had almost forgotten it until I saw this one last night. Well I close, commanding the best feelings possible.*

Thank heaven, Frank did not accompany Will and Nora on their honeymoon, with or without a female companion. After being practically joined at the hip, Will Ream and Frank Larson were breaking up the partnership between them. I do not know the exact cause. Perhaps it was over competition for Nora. Perhaps it was over financial issues. It appears that Will may have borrowed money from his father Sampson Mitchell Ream, and he certainly owed money to his brother-in-law, Mart Webb. It is possible that this debt was for a joint venture with Frank. It also seems that Will felt he had gotten stuck with more than his share of the farm work while Frank was away from Dingle Dell Ranch. Even if

money was not the immediate cause of their split, it certainly became an issue. Each later sued the other at least one time, and the legal issues between them were not resolved until 1890. Frank's name will continue to emerge in this narrative until that date, but as far as I know, their paths never crossed after that.

Maggie W. Thompson

Will did not get to Logan by November 5th as he had hoped. On November 7th he was in Ogden. Anxiety permeated his letter. He was sick with a very bad headache. Nearly all of his trading was done by three. He had ordered some alterations to his suit, but they were not yet done. He might arrive tomorrow, possibly not until Tuesday. November 7th was a Saturday. *Couldn't get your ring fixed here so will wait till we get to Denver.*

On November 8th Nora's friend Maggie wrote from Richmond, near Logan. *So you are going to leave the "Old Maids list". I wish I could see you before you go east.* Maggie was raised in Richmond, and went to the B.Y. College in Logan to study under Miss Ida Ione Cook, Principal. I think Maggie was likely a friend of Nora's there.

She signed the letter with her maiden name, but she had been married the previous April to Thomas Hazen Merrill. His father was Marriner W. Merrill, president of the Logan Temple. Four years later he became an LDS apostle.

Then it finally happened. On November 11, 1885, William Dewine Ream and Nora Ellen Crockett were married in Logan. Their wedding was not in the temple. It was performed by Bishop William Hyde[30] in Alvin Crocket's home. Nora and Will were finally together. There would be no more letters needed between them for months.

With no letters between Nora and Will during this period, we must rely on the letters that were sent to them on their prolonged honeymoon to Iowa. Apparently they did not go to New Orleans as Will had suggested, but they did spend some time in Denver. The first letter Nora saved from family was sent by her sister Roxie on November

[30] William had come to Cache County as a teenager the same year as the Crocketts, 1860. His family helped to found Hyde Park and he was raised there. His father, also named William, was the missionary who had baptized Alvin's parents in Vinalhaven. (See page 259). In 1874 when he was 27 years old, he was called by George Q. Cannon to move to Logan be the bishop in the Logan 5th ward, so he had been Nora's bishop since she was 12. He served with Alvin in the Logan Militia.

28th. Roxie was 15 and feeling grown up. It was a long letter, filled with lots of social news. She mentioned the opera "Mikado" which Nora and Will saw in Denver. It was also playing in SLC.

The next day, her mother Sophia sent a letter addressed to Chariton, Iowa. She was still adjusting to the idea of Nora's marriage—her subsequent letters prove that this took a very long time. *Glad you had such a nice trip. I think I will get so I can stand this in time....Best regards to your Hubbie.* Alvin Crockett added a note on the same sheet bringing her up to date on recent deaths. Then, *I expect it seems odd to you to see no mountains. It did to me when I was east* (he had gone on a brief, disappointing mission to the Fox Islands in 1871)*....Give my respects to Mr. and Mrs. Ream.*

Sophia wrote again on December 6th. *Father has rheumatism. Our Preston people are all well....Got a letter from my cousin in (New Hampshire) the other day. Aunt Sally and Aunt Anna are both dead...*and she listed several others. *Roxie is working down to Delia's so I have all the work to do....Tell Will (that) I will try and be as good to him now you are married as I was mean before.* Maybe Sophia was joking a bit, but the remark suggests that much of the opposition to the marriage may have come from her. *Mary is well.*

Mary wrote to Nora from Almy, Wyoming on December 12th that she thought she would come home February and March on account of severe winter weather. The temperature was 15 degrees below zero. But she didn't think that she would be in Logan for Christmas.

Nora's other older sister Delia wrote from Logan on December 20th. *George, John, and Willie also go to school, all to the B.Y.C.* (Brigham Young College). Nora's brother George Emer, age 20, also wrote. And her mother added: *Fleet is all right, so are the other horses except Carlson....The cow hooked him and came very nearly killing him....Our twins* (calves) *are a little over one week old. They look as near alike as two peas....Their names are Beck and Speck.*

The next day Lydia wrote from Preston. Apparently, Nora had not yet written to her. *Archie injured his finger badly....I expect this will be the happiest winter you ever had....Strange to have you so far from Logan. Tell me all about your trip. Archie wants to know if you think there is any such thing as love. You must write and tell me about your trip.*

On Christmas Day, Roxie sent more Logan town news. December 26th Alvin wrote again. Polygamy persecution was on his mind. *Dear Children...Mother Crockett is not better. She seems to be slowly failing mentally and physically and how long she will remain with us I know not—but think it will not be long.* Lydia Young Crockett was 73—she actually survived three more years. *Well, I will write a little about the present outlook of things here. The district judges and those of their kind including the ministers...are still doing all they can to bring trouble upon this people. They are sending both East and West some of the basest lies that a wicked mind can invent. To sum it all up, it is no better now than when you was here. They have got no one from Logan yet, but some think that they will make a break shortly after New Year's. Court is now in session at Ogden, and Bro. Lorenzo Snow will soon have his*

trial....I am glad to learn that you are so well treated (by the Reams in Iowa)...for they are God's children as well as us.

The Crockett family may not have been very supportive initially, but now that the marriage was accomplished, there was no shortage of letters from them during the honeymoon. The next one came from Mary's eleven year old daughter, Mary Elizabeth. She was known most of her life as Mamie, but for some reason signed her letters of this period, "O.A." Mamie eventually became a teacher herself, following the example of her mother, her grandmother, and of her Aunt Nora, eventually teaching Nora's grandchildren and preceding Nora to a teaching career in Long Beach, California. But that is for the next chapter.

On December 27th young Mamie wrote from Almy: *Are there any pepol out their as pretty as you? When are you comming home? I hope you come through Evanston and come stay here a day or two with us.* Her mother Mary added that they hadn't gone to Logan, but had a good Christmas, and described it in great detail. Three of the trustees had visited her school, and dismissed them early for Christmas, with the same pay. *O Nora I am so lonesome.*

The same day, their mother Sophia wrote, feeling left out. I have to say that Sophia's letters tended to be like the stereotypical Jewish mother: wounded and guilt producing. *Delia had a big dinner on Christmas and we did not get an invite. I suppose that we were not toney enough or else she was ashamed of her Father and Mother, I do not know which, and you being gone made me pass a terrible Christmas....We all felt the loss of your presence....I remain your loving and anxious Mother.*

On January 8, 1886 a letter was forwarded to Nora in Chariton from Logan. It appears that Will never followed through to send the rest of the <u>American Encyclopedia</u> after gifting her the beginning volume. The supplier had picked up on her as a possible new customer, trying to undercut their own agent. *Mr. Ream, the agent for the <u>American Encyclopedia</u>, has not been ordering any volumes sent to you lately. How is this? Do you not wish some books now? We will supply you with them on the same conditions as Mr. Ream did.* The reverse side of the letter was used as stationary by Will the next year.

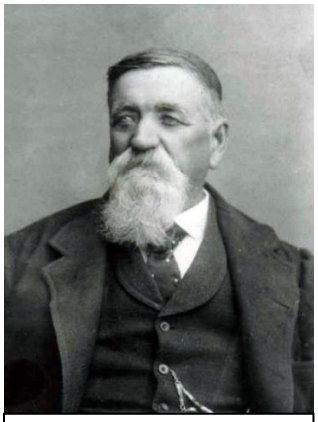
On the January 17th Sophie and Roxie combined to write another letter to Nora. *You have been gone a little more than five weeks, seems like five years.* Roxie was loving her school, but that would not last. Thirteen year old Hyrum (Hite) wrote of a mining catastrophe in Almy, scooping Mary's eyewitness report by a day.

Mary's letter from Almy was nine pages long, describing an explosion in the #4 coal mine one mile from her house, which killed 13 miners. The first such accident in Almy had been in 1881, killing 38. School would be closed for eight weeks, so Mary was expecting to return to Logan early. Her description was impressive and accurate when compared to the contemporary Deseret News account quoted in Wikipedia.

Nora's brother, George Emer Crockett, single, age 21 wrote a functional letter to Nora and Will from Logan on January 27th. *I will send a P.O. order for that $3. Roxie and John have*

quit school. His brothers were there to work on building the temple. To Will he added: *Archie was down here....Left $5 to send to you*, probably a share of Archie's book sales.

Sophia wrote again a week later. *Delia wants to get a building place up here and your Father told me to ask you if you would sell her half of your lot....Have Will get the record of his forefathers while he is there for he may never have another such a chance. I have got the genealogy of some of the Byams[31]...way back to 1650.*



Dr. Hiram K. Cranney

Apparently Will was greatly enjoying his mother's cooking. Roxie wrote on February 5th, *(Ma) was sorry for you...having such work as letting out all of the seams in Will's clothes. She (and all the rest of us) thinks that he must be a good <u>mate</u> for <u>Dr.</u> Cranney.[32] I went to school half of a term....John does not attend school. There is <u>many, many</u> folks that enquire of you... (including) Professor Hessel....Tell (Will) I am glad that he is gaining in weight and the married life must agree with him...for Fred says "Nahum looks like a peeled onion."* Nathan was Sophia Crockett's sister's boy, married 26 Aug 1884 in Logan. John might be John A. Crocket, a half-brother, age 12.

Nahum and Miriam Curtis

In February, Mary had received word that Nora and Will would be coming home soon and hoped to meet them on the way. *If you take this road why can you not meet me in Evanston on the 28th, or if the other, in Ogden on March 1?* She needed to move out of her house in Almy, and thought Ma needed her in Logan.

Based on this letter, I suspect that the honeymooners arrived in Logan on March 1, 1886. They probably spent a month in Cache Valley before Will left to prepare their home in Dingle, which had been empty all winter.

[31] Byams were Sophia's mother's family.

[32] Dr. Cranney was the sole physician in Cache County for years, an original settler there. His older brother Philander had married Nora's Aunt Roxanna and they had divorced in 1885.

BUILDING A FAMILY AND A MANSION 1886-1917

They rode Nora Ellen's mare, Fleet, and W.D's horse, Logan, to Bear Lake where W.D. had homesteaded. This was their only team for many years. They built a beautiful home of native stone and reared ten children there. --Mamie Ream, daughter-in-law.[33]

That is the family legend, and it is mostly true. It was not "they," who rode Fleet and Logan; it was Will alone. Nora was to follow. The stone home had to wait about 17 years, and it was not built on Will's homestead. We'll get to that later. And a lot happened in between.

Will in 1885

Will and Nora were together in Cache Valley for about a month after returning from their honeymoon visit to his family in Iowa. It seems possible that they stayed in the house he owned in Hyrum, though there would also have been options to stay with Nora's parents or married siblings in Logan or Preston. Eager to move his bride into his cabin, Will set out about March 31st for Bear Lake to ready it for her. He miscalculated. It was just a little too early.

As nearly as I can figure, Will took the two horses hitched to a light wagon. Of course, Logan Canyon and Blacksmith's Fork were both closed to travel for the winter. It was too early in the year to take the Mink Creek route across Emigration Canyon from Preston—that route had been used in wintertime since 1863, but only on snowshoes, so his plan was to ride an additional 75 miles north up the Gentile Valley through Grace, following the Bear River to Soda Springs, and then take the train the final 40 miles to Montpelier.[34] He could have put the horses on the train as far as Preston to shorten the difficult trip for them, but from there the track turned away to the northwest toward Pocatello. His plan was to avoid snowy high altitudes by taking the longer route followed by the river, but the ancient lava flow west of Soda Springs had created a deep gorge for the river against the mountains, forcing Will to cross a higher-altitude lava plateau for the last 10 miles of his trip, which proved to be a serious problem for him.

[33] History of Bear Lake Pioneers, DUP, Utah Printing Company, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1968, p. 648.
[34] The Oregon Short Line Railroad had reached Soda Springs in 1882.

He arrived at Soda Springs April 2nd, but had only enough strength left to get off a brief note to Nora, saying he had arrived, but would tell her the whole story when he had recovered sufficiently. That proved to take until April 4th. Here is the whole letter.

Dear wife, I was so tired last night I did not write, so I will now and give you a sketch of my trip. I stopped the first night at Reader's Ranch and the next morning crossed the divide into Cottonwood and then on to Gentile valley. Had a very nice trip. The roads were pretty good....I was puzzled which side of the river to take. Mr. Hendrix (with whom he had stayed the previous night) *thought it best to go on the east side....The next morning I started for Soda. By five oclock I had 8½ miles before I got to the bench. I reached it a little before sunrise. It was high enough to see Soda Point ten miles to the N.E. The flat looked solemn and quiet, unbroken by bare points of land or any visible track of a road. There had not been a team across since the last storm. I wanted to go to the ranch so I started and did not get 50 yards till Logan caught his left fore-shoe and tore it almost off so bad that he could not walk. He bent the left side five inches from the hoof, so I had to take it off and I had nothing to do it with but my pocket knife and the wagon wrench. I went to work and cut the nails and drew the shoe. It took me nearly one half hour. When I had done, I did not know whether to go on or back. On I started, walked and drove. I did real well for four or five miles until the sun came up and the snow began to melt, then the horses and I began to break through. Then the hard work began. Sometimes we would go to the bottom, the snow being from 2-4 feet deep. By 10 or 11 o'clock, I was within one mile of the point. Here the snow was deeper than it had been and the horses went through (with) every step. They got tired so I unhitched and fed them. While they were eating I went down to the road about one mile to see how to go, and by the time I got back I had walked three miles or more. I hitched up and started. They went all right for a short distance, (and) then they would not go on any farther. The sun was getting low and I began to think I would have to stop overnight and wait till it would freeze. I tried every way to get them to go. They had been good all day but now it was all over. I waited a while again but no use, so I tried the virtue of whipping, which proved a success. I would only allow them to go two or three rods at a time then stop and rest. It took more than an hour to get to the road. Fleet behaved like a lady. I was afraid she would get hurt by wallowing in the snow but she is all right now. Logan was sick and would not eat his grain. He felt the worst of the two. They are both well now. I don't think I will be able to get to Bear Lake for a week or 10 days. I will leave the team here and go down on the train on Monday. Will write you tomorrow. Till then. Good-bye, your loving Will.*

But he was in Montpelier by April 8th. He had not taken the train as planned. *Came in this evening got here by 4....Did not bring the team on account of snow. Left them six miles this side of Soda Springs. Came on afoot, and am as lame as I can be. I was so tired I did not go to the P.O. tonight....It is moved from the drugstore to the depot.*

On April 11th Will wrote from Cottonwood to Nora in Logan. She was planning to have her 32 year old brother David drive her and her belongings to Dingle in a wagon over the same route that Will had taken. *I have just returned from Paris and Bloomington... (and) have most of the lumber for the house and kitchen and will go and get the team in the morning.*

The snow is going fast. I think plowing will be done in a few days....I will send to Ogden for the stove (and the furniture)....I think it will be over two weeks before you can get here. It will take me all of that time to get ready. I think David can come all right by that time (but) as for you, you had better come on the cars unless you are feeling extraordinary well (she was about 20 weeks pregnant)*....I feel much better than when I was so fat. I found all well when I got here.* The grain that he had stored had kept through the winter except about 20 bushels that spilled out through a hole the mice had made. *The photos you sent for was sent to Chariton instead of Logan. John* (Will's brother in Chariton) *wrote me....(he) will have them sent to Logan.*

If Nora were to come on "the cars" she would have to take the train through Ogden and Echo clear to Granger, Wyoming to get on the Oregon Short Line, a distance of 305 miles to Montpelier. Shortly thereafter, Will sent more specific instructions. *I told (David) to be in Logan on Easter and I would telegraph him which way to come. I will telephone from Montpelier to Paris and there to Logan....Don't work too much and use your own judgment about coming in the wagon with David. Don't come if you don't feel well....But have David bring the stuff if possible. I was at the ranch yesterday and carpenters will come Tuesday.*

On April 24th Will was still fretting about conditions for Nora's trip. *I don't think it wise for you to start right away....If David is in Logan...you can go as far as Preston and then wait till the first Monday in May. Then I think you will have a pleasant time, but now the roads are bad. The furniture has come and is in Montpelier now. I have not got the house done yet....Had a carpenter ever since Monday and two yesterday....Frank has not turned up yet so you had better come by way of Soda.* I think Frank had planned to take the more direct route over Emigration Canyon and Will was worried by the delay.

On April 25th Will's 20 year old sister Edith wrote to Nora from Chariton....W*ish you were here now. Everything looks so much nicer than it did when you were here. I suppose you are anxious to reach (Bear Lake) and your new home. We have received several letters from Will. Ann and Jim (Cain) stayed one week after you left, then they went home too. The children....Often speak of you. Dude (Durward, the youngest) says he is going to see Bill* (all of Will's family called him that) *when he gets a little more "bigger." Jessie and Venice* (two friends that Nora met on the honeymoon) *are in Dallas school teaching this summer. I am not teaching, too late to get a school.*

By May 4th, Nora and David were underway. Will sent this letter for them to receive on the road. *You may be on the road from Cache....I expect (the letter) to be handed to you tomorrow. Mr. Dayton is going by way of Soda and if you are coming he will meet you and give this to you. If you can't make Montpelier you had better stop at Georgetown. Go to Solen Robison's, they are nice folks. If you get to Montpelier stop at Moroni Davis'. I will be over Thursday after work....Stop on the other side of the river till I come over.*

If she arrived on Thursday as expected, if would have been on May 6, 1886 that they finally began their new life in a house of their own. There is some confusion about the location of

the cabin at that time. I believe that it then stood down the hill west of the Dingle Road on Will's homestead.[35]

On June 13th, Nora's mother Sophia Crockett wrote from Logan with her usual dose of motherly advice: H*ave you got your oil consecrated? If not do so....Use the oil freely when you feel lame. Have you and Will joined a ward yet? If not I think you both ought to...then how are you to get a recommend to go in the Temple.* Sophia was wasting her ink. Beulah wrote of Will in her memoir*...."He joined the church, but never went to church." We have 22 colonies of bees. Your dad is working most every day on Mary's house. She won't be home until the fourth of July.*

Four days later, Lydia wrote from Preston with good financial news*. Your calves look splendid. At first chance Archie will sell them. Yearlings are bringing fourteen dollars, calves are eight. Brother Lamoreaux is expecting Bertha home this week. Wat has gone over for her.* Bertha Lamoreaux may have still been in Paris, Idaho teaching. I think Wat was Bertha's younger brother Walter.

Lydia wrote again on July 26th from her mother's house in Logan to both Nora and their sixteen year old sister Roxie, who had evidently come to be with Nora during her impending delivery. Lydia had tragic news. Her fourth boy, 4½ month old Rayden, had died, apparently of pneumonia.

Roxie Crockett

By August, Nora was in her ninth month of pregnancy. Sophia sent her a load of motherly advice about labor, and then, *Mary says...she is going back to Almy for another year.* To Roxie: *Be a good girl and do the best you can for Nora and tell Will not to bother you too bad about getting married.* Roxie was engaged.

On August 22, 1886 William Wesley Crockett Ream was born in the one room shingle roofed log house. Four days later, just a half mile to the north, Wesley's future wife, Mary Cooper Sirrine (Mamie) Ream, was born to Sarah and George Sirrine.

On September 1st Mary wrote from Almy, but there was not a word about the new baby--she had not yet received the news. Her letter was all about going to dinner with her trustee, Mr. F.

On September 3, Will's sister Edith wrote congratulations from Chariton. *I really was surprised to hear of my little nephew that looks like me. I know he is pretty beyond a doubt.* She gave much news of the Ream family in Iowa. There was a slender paper enclosed bearing the words *Grandmas hair swatch.*

[35] See diagram on page 43.

Nora's mother Sophia wrote on September 6th, apologizing for the lateness of the letter—she had been very busy taking care of her aged mother-in-law, Lydia Young Crockett. There were the usual loads of advice. *Take good care of yourself and baby, remember if you take good care of yourself you will be healthy and well....You must not let Roxie neglect you, you must call on her for anything you want. You must take an egg in new milk every morning. You must carry the baby on a pillow.* There followed much news about the sickness or wellness of every family member, and then, *I think I will be able to save for you all the young roosters you want.*

Emma Crockett, the wife of David, Nora's brother who had driven her to Bear Lake, wrote to Nora on September 22nd. They had just moved from Logan to Preston. *I am still living in the granary, but hope soon to have a house, for A. D. (Alvin David) has got some of the logs and is gone for more....Feel so sorry for poor Mother with Grandma there. It is too hard on her to lift her and wait on her.*

Alvin David and Emma Hodges Crockett

On that same day two school teachers whom Nora had befriended in Chariton wrote to congratulate her on her baby. Jessie wrote: *I do have <u>some</u> hope of seeing you next fall. You ask, "When I will come?" Probably then. My first pleasure will be to see you....I am glad you like the pictures, I think it <u>much</u> better than the one I sent to our friend F.L.* Interesting that Jessie was writing to Frank Larsen. The other friend from Chariton, Venus Hopkins, wrote that she planned to come west in the fall. *There is to be a party at Reams' next Thursday night. We expect a nice time. I was down to visit Jessie one day this week. We went out riding and stopped in the woods and at the graveyard and gathered...flowers.*

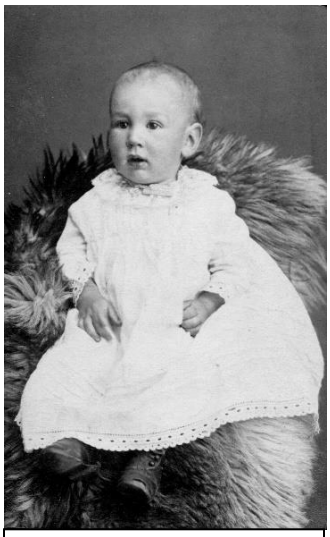
Edith wrote from Chariton again on October 9th. *(In) two weeks and three days school will be out....I had a spelling school last Tuesday night, Cousin Minnie Smith was out and helped me to pronounce....We have had Elda sit on photos. I want Pa and Ma to go and have a group taken. Send a baby picture.* Minnie had married Clement Noble Smith, son of Nancy Ream's sister Amanda Murphin Smith in May of that year. They soon moved to Elmwood, Nebraska, finally settling in Colorado. Elda would have been only 16 months old then, and Durward, four years.

According to the memoir of his daughter Beulah, Will had promised Nora's mother that he would bring her home every year. Sometime that fall, Nora went to Logan with the baby for a brief visit. It was probably early, before snow, and during apple harvest time. My guess is that she went to attend Roxie's wedding to John Henry Hopkins on October 12th. Nora saved two undated letters that Will had sent to her during that visit: *Sunday Eve. I hope you got home all right and are having a good time....I hated to see you go so bad I forgot*

to say good-bye....I send my love to you now....After you left I shut the colt up (apparently Fleet and Logan had reproduced, just as their owners had) *and Fred and I went down and fenced the hay....We came back by Oakeys and brought the pig.* They had a hard time getting the pig home, having to drag and chase it. In the process Will lost his hat. *I missed something else worse than the hat, I guess. It was you and baby. The room was cold and dark and no fire nor loving smile to greet me. This I missed.... (The next morning) I commenced the granary. Fred was down to Oakeys and did not get back till nine or ten and I was still at work.*

The second letter: *Don't give yourself any uneasiness about me or your colt, for it has just this moment come by the door. It will do well till you get back. Have a good visit and come home when you get ready. I have wondered how you feel away from the cabin. I hope you will have no feeling of regret to come back. I set your flowers in the window to give them sun. Watered them today. Fred wants you to go to his mother's and get 4 bu. of apples and bring up. He is talking of going down afoot and riding back with you. I think John will throw up if Fred comes down.* I think that Fred was Nora's 10 year old half-brother, possibly brought up to visit by whichever family member had taken Nora and the baby to Logan. And John was Fred's 12 year old brother.

Nora and little Wesley must have returned before November, since by November 16th, Sophia was already complaining that she had waited two weeks for a letter from Nora. *The boys found the horses the next day after you went home...over in Lewiston. I think your dear little babe has a much nicer name than it would have had if you had named him what you said you would. I wish I could see him (again) and all of you. How much does he weigh?* Hmm. I wonder what other name Nora had in mind for Wesley....*Now that Roxie is married I have no one to help me.*



William Wesley Crockett Ream

Sophia Crockett wrote again on November 16th. She had lots of questions about the baby. She liked his name. *Delia was quite sick....She had a hard time when you was here and then when the cars started she saw the deps jump on the train and it gave her a dreadful fright, (which) with her hard work made her quite sick.* Nora's older sister Delia was married to a polygamist. Her father Alvin was not in hiding, and the family was worried about him as well. *I don't know whether your Father will come there or not.... (He) thanks you and Will for your kindness in asking him to come and stay a while with you....I do not know when I will get my new rooms done now for there is no telling when the deps will be here again. George has to go to Ogden on the 16th of this month for a witness. Kiss the two Wills for me and tell Delia I often think of her. From your lonely Ma, S. Crockett.* There were two Delia Crocketts. The married one was Nora's older sister. Nora also had a half-sister named Delia Sophia, who was fifteen years old. She is the one who had gone to Dingle with Nora.

Delia Sophia and her sister Althea Crockett

Sophia wrote again November 28th. *Your father says that you can have (the stove). He thought that it would be too small...but I can send it this week. Willie thinks we can send it on Tuesday...and you can let me have feathers when you get them if you like. Your father is fixing to go to meeting. The deps are not in town today. George has been to Ogden and got back the same day. They wanted him to answer questions in your father's case and Bro. Jensen's case....Be sure to keep (your baby's) legs and feet covered up good when you go out with him and be sure to warm his feet good every time you take him and not let him freeze his feet. I hear that Delia is homesick. Tell her for me that she must not be homesick for it will do no good but just wait until she gets ready to start for home then she can get as homesick as she wants to. I think your baby has a very nice name. Which one are you going to call him by? ...Thank Will for your kind invitation for your father to come over there and stay a while, but I do not think he will go yet....He may after a while.*

Lydia wrote from Preston on December 16th. *Archie did not doubt Mr. Ream when he said that man should have sent him $20, and he feels all right about it.* The cattle had run away including Ozro's and some of Nora's. Everyone was looking for them and worried. *Archie said if he was down that way he would call and get that book. When Mr. Ream was here last he left his vest here and he lost his coat and Fred found it, so it is at Ozro's.*

Lonely Sophia wrote again between Christmas and New Year's, bemoaning the fact that her daughters had all moved away. She wished that Nora were still in Logan, and gave news of all the family including Grandma Crockett. *Just the same. Bros. Adams and Henderson receive their sentence right after New Year Day, so I expect they will have to go to the pen....Give my love to your hubby, baby, Delia and yourself...and when you get time write to your lonely Mother....Tell Will not to call my little grandson runt any more, for if he takes after his Grandma Crockett I do not think he will be much of a runt.*

There are no letters to suggest why, but Nora seems to have left Dingle right after the holidays for a teaching job in Preston. Maybe the Dingle winter had gotten to her. More likely there were urgent financial reasons. She wrote to Will on January 11, 1887 from Preston....*School is hard. I have so many large boys, over sixty pupils and only about 10 girls. Why don't you come right away and take my school or the one I am teaching for two months.* I don't know exactly where the letter was sent. Perhaps Will was already on the road taking orders for Lombardy poplar trees. *That would let you out in time to make your delivery of trees in the spring. They need a man teacher. I do not know how I can stand it to teach the full term out four weeks longer....If we choose, we may keep the school until June and you will be through delivering trees and we could go home.* There were no further letters saved between them that winter, which suggests to me that either Will joined her as suggested or that she returned quickly to Dingle. I do not have that original letter, so I am

not absolutely sure that the date was correctly transcribed. I have doubts that Will went to Preston then, because Nora seemed to be in Dingle when her mother wrote to her on March 17th.

Will's younger brother John wrote a letter on March 15th from Chariton, which suggests that debts were on Will's and Nora's minds. They owed money to Will's brother-in-law, Martin Webb. My theory is that it may have been linked to the real estate Will had been involved with in Hyrum. Emma was worried about it too, and so was John. It had become a serious family issue. *I am working for Mart for $20 a month. I will stay with him till fall. Em wants me to see you about that note. She thinks you won't pay it and she is fretting herself to death about it...don't sleep more than half the time. I tell her you will pay it....If you don't pay it I will, for it is an honest debt and ought to be paid. Now I tell you if you can't pay it all, I will help you all I can for I want it cleared up....Let me know about the matter and we will settle it sure....Just as soon as I get $500 I am coming West to make a case or lose. Pa and the boys is running the farm. Jim Bair is home, (and) is going to buy a team. They have got a wagon and a kid to drive it....I have completed all of my books that is country books and received my diploma and several good recommends....I want to teach school this winter and make a little money. If I had plenty I would study law but I have not got enough money. Well I reckon Frank is home. I want to see him when he comes back. How is it in about the Saints? Can they teach school? I see a bill was before congress. If this is so, there will be some show for me to teach school. I like the Mormons, but I don't agree with their ideas. I would like to run the ranch for you, but under the circumstances I cannot this time, but some future time maybe I can. Emma wants that money in May or June.*

On March 17th Sophia wrote from Logan to Nora. Nora's location was not specifically mentioned, but although Nora had a little work to do, it was evidently not in Preston, for her mother gave news of the families in that town. I think Nora was in Dingle. And the younger Delia was still with Nora. *I am glad that you can get a little work to do. It will help you along. I think Will is working very hard. Has his shoulder got as well as ever? How does Delia get along with her studies? Does she learn much?* I wonder if Delia was taking classes at the Fielding Academy which opened that year in Paris. More likely, Nora was instructing her. There was much news in the letter of Sophia's Payson family, the Reeds, and then, *The Deps are as thick as flies in summer so your Father has to...keep his eyes open in the day.* He has nearly got the porch finished and has made a nice room for his mother. *The deps have taken Ralph Smith, Daniel Johnson and several others. Your lonely and forlorn mother. Mary S. Crockett.*

On March 26th, Nora's sister-in-law Emma wrote from Preston that she was*...glad to hear that Will has got a school for it makes me think that you are getting along first rate. Give my love to Delia for me.* Apparently Will was teaching school in Dingle. He was also selling books again. He was hoping to expand his territory into Montana as soon as school was out. He wrote *To National Pub. Company, Chicago: Books received all right and enclosed $5.75 for which send my one more History (binding leather) and one Wonders of the World. I would like the territory in Montana from Virginia City to Butte for both books. My school is*

out and I will (be there) by the first of May. The request was granted by the publishing company on May 13th out of the San Francisco office: *We are holding the two counties which you refer to for your exclusive use and shall not let any other agents represent us on the books which you are to handle in this territory....Anxious to have you begin your work soon....<u>Wonders</u> is an exceptionally good selling work. One of our agents has just reported that he took five orders for it...while standing on a street corner in San Jose.*

Will was planning teaching the next winter as well. On April 1, 1887 a note was signed by Marthinus Nelson of Ovid agreeing *to give W. D. Ream a pregnant cow in exchange for schooling between Dec. 1 and the last of Feb. of the coming winter.*

Apparently Nora tried to atone for her negligence in writing to her mother by inviting her to join them in Dingle. Sophia declined on April 13th. *I think it best for you if I do not come, but I thank you and Will for kindly asking me....If I could leave home I should go to Preston and cook for the men....Kisses for the heir and love to you and Will and Delia. Please write soon to your lonely old...Mother.*

That spring Will "proved up" for both of his homestead claims. He had occupied the land for the minimum five years. The first patent was issued to him on March 9th and the second on May 15, 1887, and he was no longer bound to actually live on the land. I think that might be when Will and Nora moved next door to Frank Larsen. According to Will's son Wesley Ream's autobiography, *Father bought a two acre lot from one Frank Larsen. He moved the house east across what is now the main street, then added another room. We lived there for several years....Mitchel and Lee were born in that house in 1888 and Sept 11, 1890.* Sometime after that, as their family grew Will and Nora moved back west across Dingle Road. I think they probably needed to use both cabins for their large family until the mansion was built between 1903 and 1905.

Will and Nora's daughter Beulah wrote in her memoir about the first cabin on the east side of Dingle road. *Mother taught school. They had a little house that they lived in. It was a one room house with a little lean to for the kitchen...and then they moved down below the hill a quarter mile and stayed there and Mother used that little house for a school. We had so far to go to school, a mile and a quarter...and so she taught school there.*

But I am getting ahead of the story.

Will's new cabin now stood on the two acres that he had bought from Frank just to the north of Frank's Dingle Dell Ranch, where Will and Frank had been living together for over two years. The following undated letter was probably written sometime in 1887 when the Reams were living next door to Frank. I suspect that it came as a result of tensions between Frank and the Reams that led them to consider moving back across the road.

The letter was from Frank Larsen to Nora. *Your wish or request is granted. You shall not have to move your house. You need not think I have forgotten my promise to you either in fact or feeling. In the confusion of conflicting affairs things at one time plain often appear obscure, even duty does not always seem straight and plain. It sounded curious yesterday*

when you said "We would not molest you any more where we are now, than in other places." How the threads of lives do tangle up. It would be a rare pleasure to live close to you Nora, to be on pleasant footing. Good friends, good neighbors. To be all, except on good open social footing is odd indeed. Oh, that "dividing wall" I saw once in my mind. How real, how solid it appears now. Have no fear of your note becoming public property or anybody's, but my own. Even though you do not call me friend do not fear to think me so. Do not shun my house whether I am absent or present, as I understand things, there are those here who share for you the kindliest feeling besides myself. If for any reason you do not want to call at my house, consider it others' and call the same when I am here as when I am absent. And consider me now as in the past your friend. F. L.

The first part seems to suggest that Reams had been planning to move their house back to the homestead. Frank was quoting what Nora had said "yesterday." This sounds like a response to a verbal comment, so I think this letter was hand delivered. From that time on, Frank's name rarely appeared in any family letters, and he seems to have moved away permanently from his house in Dingle. But he is still not out of our story.

The financial pressure from Will's family in Iowa was growing. His mother Nancy wrote[36] on May 21, 1887, *John was home and stayed a week and left today for Mart's. He says Em leads a life. Mart is always talking about that money that you owe them. Em says that if you don't pay them some this month that she will have to leave him for she can't stand it. Will, if you can, pay them some. Don't think that I am anxious for you to pay the mortgage. If I had the waiting to do, I would wait a long time. You know that I don't have much to say in such things or you would fare better.*

As soon as school was out, Will hit the road. He was not only taking orders for books—he was also selling trees, but not yet in Montana. He was in the Boise area and he did not come home until July. His first letter came from Nampa. *Country is very poorly settled on account of being a new place....I think it will pay very well.* Then he was in Middleton on May 26th. *Take good care of our boy if everything else has to go. I hope Delia has got a chance to go home before now. I have been canvassing 1½ days and have eight orders....This country is over canvassed already...but I think...I will be able to make $100 a month. I think I can find a good market for our eggs this winter. I may be down in August with Burgoyne's outfit.* Burgoynes had the store in Montpelier. Two days later from Boise Valley he wrote, *I think I can sell 100 copies a month clearing $100. Just had Jim send some maple seeds and will you watch the office and don't let them spoil....Have Theodore Dayton plant them in the garden where the carrots and beets are on the south side of the ditch.* And then on May 30th, *Will commence delivering soon. Have 22 orders and have only been at work 8 days. I may come home before the first of August if Burgoyne's contract is finished.*

Frank Larsen was still in Dingle on June 4th, and Will was suspicious that he was up to no good. *You talked about Frank Larsen mortgaging the land in the field. Did you find out if he*

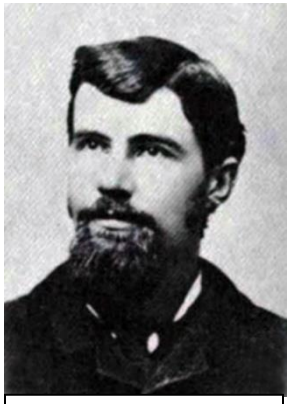
[36] The entire letter is quoted with original grammar and spelling in Section II, p. 223-4.

put it on our 40 acres? I don't think he would dare do that but it is hard to tell what he would do, seeing he is at the business he is. If he has, I will look into it as soon as I come home. I think all is well knowing that I owe but little if any on it and having the statement. Frank did mortgage Will's 40 acres. He and Will were to be suing each other over that issue for the next two years. *I don't blame Delia for being homesick. I will be able to send her money soon and she can go down on the cars. I will commence delivering next week....Daisy, I love you.*

The next three letters from Will were from Boise and Caldwell. By the 16th he wrote that it would soon be a month, and no money sent home. *I did not get my books as soon as I wanted them. I have delivered all that have come and done well. I did not do as well this month and have to pay all that I owe out of my commission. I have written the (publishing) house and will know soon. If I can get time with them I shall stay. I can get several schools at $65 a month....I will teach if you will let me. I will come home first and see what I can do there. What do you think?* He said that he regretted marrying her before he had created a nice enough home.

Some money came in. On June 21st Will sent $35 to Quayles, $20 of which he owed them. Nora was to pick up the rest at the store. Quayles ran the grocery store in Dingle. Delia was still with Nora, and she could now be paid, too. He would begin canvassing in Boise in the morning and be home within a month.

He sent money to Iowa, too. Will's brother John wrote from Chariton on June 28th, *Your check was good for a hundred dollars....Pa will return the rest of the money today.* That baffles me. Apparently Will owed his father money as well as Mart. Possibly John was saying that part went to their father, and the balance would be returned to Mart.



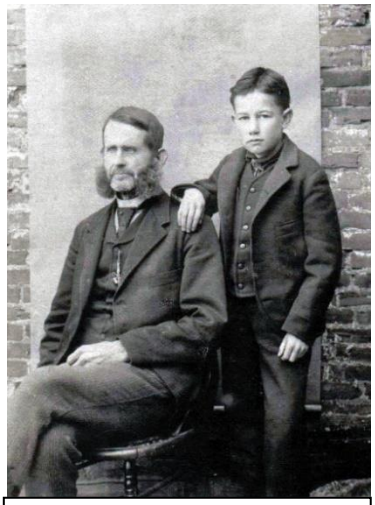
James E. Hart

Frank Larsen was up to no good. He was not in Dingle—he had traveled east again, and he was in the newspapers. On July 8, 1887 there was long article contributed by an eastern correspondent named J. E. Hart to the Deseret Evening News with the headline, *THE BOGUS BAKER FAMILY. This imposture appears in a New York Dime Museum.* The article revealed that a Mormon polygamist who called himself Elder Joshua Baker, recently released from a term in the Boise prison, had brought his family to New York after being shunned by his Idaho neighbors for renouncing polygamy, and had his four ex-wives and 24 children on display at the Globe Museum on 298 Broadway. The handbill read: *Elder Baker now out on bail. He escapes from Utah persecution and the modern land of bondage. See his 4 wives and 24 children. Hear the weird secrets of Mormonism. Big Mormons, little Mormons, boy Mormons, girl Mormons; in all, 29 in one family. The first chance in America to see the Mormons as they really are.* The Baker family members were displayed on a raised platform surrounded by a painting of four wives occupying the same bed and pulling each other's hair, another of Joseph Smith and Bill Hickman drowning an old lady for "knowing too much," and huge knives from which blood was dripping. The knives had supposedly

been used for blood atonement. It was possible for viewers to approach the platform and interview the participants. When questioned, Baker informed the reporter that the producer of the show was a man called Karl N. Ransof, a Danishman, who had lived among the Mormons since he had been fourteen years of age and had gotten to know the Mormons through traveling among them as a sewing machine agent, living in Bear Lake County. The writer of the piece, who was from Bear Lake County himself, noticed that the name contained the exact letters, which when re-ordered would spell Frank Larson.

The piece re-appeared in the Deseret News a week later and in the Los Angeles Herald.

The correspondent, James E. Hart, was a 30 year old man from Bloomington, Idaho. He was probably in New York at the time to work with his father James Henry Hart, who had been sent to New York by the Mormon prophet John Taylor to manage the church's immigration office there. The older Hart had been a stake president for the gathering Saints in St. Louis, Missouri in about 1852, and had later moved to Bear Lake Valley in 1864, where he served as Bloomington's first bishop, and then as a counselor to Bear Lake Stake President Budge until being called to New York. James Henry Hart was a polygamist himself, having three wives. I imagine that both of these men were acquainted with Frank Larsen and, for that matter, with Will Ream.



William Garrison and Jr. 1885

James Hart wrote a letter to the editor of the South Idaho Independent in Paris, Idaho to give more details of the polygamy show, which was published July 29, 1887. He revealed that Elder Joshua Baker was an alias for William Alvin Garrison of Preston, who had indeed just been released from the Idaho State Prison in Boise. He continued, *the other evening I went to the show with two returning Elders. I was spotted this time, in fact Garrison had heard I had been to see him, and this time he came up and shook hands. Told me that if he did not get a settlement with Larsen the next day he would leave. J. B. Stoddard was there. He delivers lectures every evening I believe, and Garrison says he tells some shameful lies.*

William Calvin Garrison was really a colorful character. He had been baptized a Mormon in 1869 in Alabama shortly after his 8th child with the improbable name of General Newt Grant Garrison was born. He left his wife and children to go to Utah at age 46 with a 25 year old woman named Jane Whitesides Cathey and her four year old son Andrew Jackson Kinney, and located in Preston, Idaho around 1870.[37] Three years after Garrison and Jane

[37] Interestingly, Parthena Garrison, Garrison's oldest daughter by the first wife whom he abandoned in Alabama, was married to David Crockett Stuart, the Alabama civil war veteran who settled in Wardboro near Dingle in 1872. After Parthena died in childbirth, D. C. Stuart married Mary Larson, Frank Larsen's sister. So William Calvin Garrison was the father-in-law of the man who married Frank's sister.

moved to Preston she was sealed to him in the Endowment House and stood in proxy for a sealing to Catherine Dunlap, who had died earlier that year in Alabama. In 1881 Garrison also married Emma Taylor, a young widow with three small children. This appears to have been a civil marriage in Franklin. So, at the time of the New York show, he was only actually living with two wives. The rest of the wives and children at the show were stand-ins.

Garrison with his real family around 1886

I imagine the news articles created quite a stir, especially in the Bear Lake Valley. The news certainly reached Nora's family in Logan, where Frank was well known. On July 16th her mother Sophia wrote to ask Nora, *What do you think of F. L. now?* She did not forget to nag a bit. *Nora you must not be vexed with me for I am very anxious to see you and Will and babe coming over here to make us a good visit and to go through the Temple.*

Will probably returned to Dingle before the end of July, since there were no more letters between him and Nora after that. It is obvious that he, too, had read the gossip in the newspapers about Frank, for in Nora's letters is an interesting reply to a query that Will had sent directly to James E. Hart. It was dated September 2, 1887 on stationary of the Utah Emigrant Office, No. 20 Broadway, New York. James H. Hart, agent. For some reason, Will had felt that Frank may have fled to Europe.

To W. D. Ream, Esq., Dingle Dell, Idaho. *Replying to yours of the 8th inst. will say that I called on Mr. Garrison, who is now on exhibition at the Globe Museum No. 298 Bowery.* Meehan and Wilson's Globe Museum specialized in oddities, such as the Leather Man. *He informed me that Frank Larsen is now in Boston on exhibition as a Mormon Polygamist from Utah, that he had run away with his (Garrison's) third wife, and that he had engaged a number of New York prostitutes to accompany him and pose as his wives. (Garrison) says Frank has treated him shamefully and was at present owing him about $600. He seemed to mourn the loss of the money more than the wife. He has heard nothing of Frank's going to Europe but would not be surprised if he did. From a gentleman of my acquaintance who came down from Boston a few days ago I was informed that he and another party went to see the alleged "Mormon Family." The women answer the description Garrison gave of them, i.e. in general appearance, and the party said there was a host of squint eyed children of all sizes on the platform. The gentleman is unacquainted with Larsen and does not know whether it was him. Garrison has no books left that were written by Karl N. Ransof and I have none, consequently I am unable to comply with your request in this regard. With kind regards to self and family I remain, Yours very truly, J. E. Hart.*

So Frank had fled the scene in New York to set up a polygamy show in Boston starring himself. A month later on October 2, 1887, Galloway sent his own letter from New York to

the *South Idaho Independent* to try to defend his shattered reputation. He said Frank had hired him last April to come with him east and exhibit his family in various museums of the large cities and pay all expenses. Frank skipped off and Galloway had not seen him since, *and he left my family destitute. Then he hired a whole lot of low down characters here on the same street I am on and took them and the woman he hired in Logan and is exhibiting them as my family and as Mormons. The Logan woman's name is Eliza Heralson. Now she is with Frank and his loose stock, he hired her. Frank Larson and Stoddard have damaged me about 700 dollars.*

The newspaper published his letter and evidently received an explanation from Frank Larsen as well, though I did not see it published. The Idaho paper wrote to the *Salt Lake Herald-Republican*, which had evidently also carried the story. *We have received a very lengthy communication from Frank Larsen in explanation and justification of his business with Garrison. As the public are well aware of the business in which Larsen has been engaged, and as it is the almost universal opinion that it was a low down, dirty business—a business in which no gentleman would ever think of engaging—we feel sure the less that is said about it in print, or otherwise, the better for Larsen. We wave Larsen a long farewell.*

I too would like to wave Larsen farewell, but sadly his story with Will is still far from over.

In the meantime, there were important events in the Ream and Crockett families. Emma and Mart's little Minnie died of meningitis. Ma Ream sent Nora the word along with a piece of Minnie's robe and burial flowers.

Nora's father Alvin Crockett stopped by Dingle after a prolonged visit to Soda Springs. I wonder if he had prudently left Logan, where he was so well known, in order to avoid arrest. He rarely wrote letters, at least to Nora, so I will include a fair amount of this one.

Dear Children. I will do as I agreed and tell you how I got home. He gave a detailed account of making the trip to Logan from Dingle on foot with some wagon-hitchhiking, which took him about four days. Evidently he had stayed at Dingle Dell Ranch at Frank Larsen's boarding house run by the Bird family.[38] *Bro. Bird and Wife was so kind to me as I could wish and I feel grateful to them for their kindness. I did not know that you gave me that book until I got home and saw what you had written on the fly leaf. I thought you just lent me the book so you will accept my thanks for the gift, for I esteem it very much. I found the folks all well as I hope this will find you. I expect to leave in a few days for someplace where there is not so many Deps (deputies) as there is here. With kind regards and best wishes for your prosperity I am as ever your Father. A. Crockett*

Evidently Alvin did not leave Logan soon enough. Throughout the polygamy persecution he had famously refused to live in hiding as though he felt he had something to hide. On

[38] In Wesley Ream's biography he wrote: *Frank Larsen, who had been in partnership with Father, built a large frame two story house near us. He was single so they called it "Larson's Folly". He had a family live in it and take care of his place and board him. The man's name was George Bird. They had a son and three daughters. They were our nearest neighbors.*

February 13, 1888 Alvin Crockett was sentenced to four months in prison for polygamy, but was out by May 24, 1888. He had been released early for good behavior.

On April 23, 1888 Mitchel Alvin Ream was born in the Dingle cabin to Will and Nora. He was named after both grandfathers. Will's brother Jim congratulated Nora in a letter. *Glad to hear I was uncle again....Well what are you going to call the Big Boy—Grover Cleveland, of course....I am coming out there after a while.* To Will: *I would like to come out if I can sell my young team.* Ma (Nancy Ream) added her congratulations. *Does the baby look like his grandma? ...If you would not think I was meddling, if you don't want any more babies soon I'll send you one of Emma's health remedies. She don't have any babes & is stout & fat now....Mart Webb started to Idaho yesterday.* I have no other indication of Mart's visit. I wonder if he arrived and confronted Will. I do know that the debt was not settled at that time.

In May Will's brother John secretly married a girl named Anna Telia Erickson. He was 18 and she was 15. John's parents had forbidden the marriage, so they hid it from them for almost a year while he was away to school.

As nearly as I can tell, Will and Nora were together in Dingle with their two little boys all winter and spring of 1888 until mid-July. Sophia was concerned that their church activity might be lapsing. She wrote on June 17th in response to two letters from Nora. *When do you and Will calculate to get a recommend and go through the Temple? I think you both have had time enough to think and study it up and still I never hear a word about it one way or another. I hope you have not given it up. Is Will going off canvassing? Is he going to bring you over in the team? I shall be very glad to see him as well as you and the little ones....When you have come you never stayed long enough to get a good visit.*

On July 15th Nora packed up the two little boys and took off for Logan. They would not return to Dingle for nearly a year. Will stuck around Dingle for about three months until the harvest was over and to settle some legal issues, and then took off for Montana, where the Chicago publishers had granted him an untapped territory to canvass. He would sell books and trees into mid-January, 1889, and then join the family in Preston, where Nora had gone to teach school. They were together there for approximately four or five months. Since there were no letters between them during that time, I have no way to be sure, but suspect that they both taught in Preston until the schools let out for the summer.

Three days after Nora's departure a subpoena was issued to *John Grimmett and James P. Nowland to appear on (blank) July, 1888 at 2 pm in the county courthouse in the matter of Frank Larsen, plaintiff and W. D. Ream, defendant.* The wording suggests that Frank was suing Will. Actually it was the opposite, as you will soon see.

This document came into Nora's hands as ersatz stationary, which Will had used later for a letter to her. Evidently one of his allies, Grimmett or Nowland, had brought it to Will. In an undated letter, Will had reported to Nora of a pending court hearing in Paris regarding an injunction concerning a homestead. He had lined up as witnesses *G. Clifton, Jonnie*

Grimmett, Will Lindsay and Nowland. Will was putting up hay. *I will be coming over horseback as you have not said for me to bring you over anything.*

If Will did make a trip to Logan at that time, it was a short one, for on July 21, 1888 he wrote again, this time on letterhead stationary of Stull and Spence, attorneys in Paris, Idaho. *I am here and can say with pleasure that Larsen got his eye knocked out and I get the hay. So much so good. Now for the homestead. I think I can break (that) just as easy as I did this....Don't be worried for I think all will end well. I will be down as soon as I'm through haying.* And in a later letter, *Mr. D.* (his lawyer, Duddenhausen) *said I would win. Jonnie Grimmett said he would pay what it cost and more.* Grimmett evidently wanted to buy the property once the title was clear.

From this letter, I deduce that Will had been working all summer on a homestead that he and Frank both felt entitled to. Since Will had produced the hay, it was awarded to him. But the matter of ownership of the land turned out to be a more difficult question, which would not be settled for another year, despite Will's optimism.

In the meantime, Will was worried about his family. He had no problem with Nora going to Cache Valley for the winter, but he did not want Nora to work outside the home, feeling that the boys would be neglected. He stated that opinion in no uncertain terms, but Nora signed up to teach anyway. She said she was not defying him. It had been a communications issue. She had signed up to teach while his letter forbidding it was in transit, and could not go back on her word. Here is how that happened.

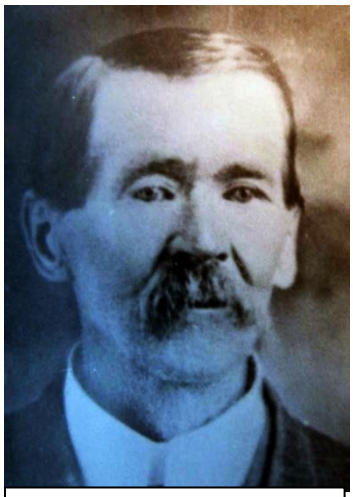
On July 29th they wrote to each other on the same day. Nora must have already revealed an inclination to teach, and Will replied bluntly after passing along news from Chariton, *as for your teaching school, I believe you had better not. In fact, I can't see how you can.* Nora had just returned to Logan from a visit to Preston. *If I can get a school I think it best that I should teach to help get out of debt....I might get the Preston school for $40, but it will be a large mixed school, ...too hard for that price.*

She was worried about their separation. *Oh! Will, I wish things were so we could be together and never be separated for even a day....Will people in Bear Lake think you and I are separated for time? How little they guess of our strong love for each other.*

Six days later, neither had received the other's letter, and they wrote again on August 5th. Nora had made her decision, and had already begun teaching school in Paris. *In the school room...I found the school house very dirty, not even swept. There is not one desk, only long meeting house benches, a blackboard about 3 x 6 feet. I do not think I shall teach longer than this term....Whatever comes from teaching, good or bad, I can truly say I have done what I believed to have been for the best.* She had initially gone to Logan to attend a teachers' preparation course, the CCEI, which I think stood for the Cache County Education Institute, but on account of the children, she had only been able to attend a day or so before rushing up to Preston. She wrote, *Pa (Alvin) thinks he will have 1,000 lbs. of Lucerne seed....We could*

have what we want. Nora and her two boys were living with Lydia and Archie Lamoreaux and their young boys and had hired a teenage girl to babysit while she was teaching school.

At the same time Will, as yet unaware of the previous two letters, had fashioned a passionate letter against Nora teaching. He was about ready to set out again to earn cash to pay toward their debts. He wanted his kids to have a full-time mom and pledged to find the money to support them in Logan. He told her he had given her chickens to Nowland[39] for eggs. *He will let you have 16 next spring, better than to leave them for wolves. (I) plan to go to Montana in about 3 weeks to sell some quick articles at a large percent. I think John* (his brother) *will be out and go with me. Thinking of bringing the 12 cows and 4 more to Preston in November and selling the rest. Then I can sell hay.*



James P. Nowland

Then Will got the news. I think he understood, and took it well. *I have just come from George Sirrine's when I got your letter and learned that you were teaching. It makes me feel bad to know that you must go....Hope you will have the best of luck and as soon as this term is out you can quit.*

And Nora got the news. What a difference a telephone would have made for them. She was apologetic, but it was too late to quit teaching now. She wrote on August 15, 1888, *Only 4 pupils today because of the storm. I got your letter telling me not to teach after I had been here a week. I will not teach longer than this term. I didn't mean to go against your wishes. I thought if I could earn something to help pay our debts or support myself and children till you could pay there, it would leave you free...without worrying about us. I have not got examined yet and do not know how I can get to Malad....I could close school Thursday night, go over some Friday, get examined, on Saturday and return on Sunday therefore missing but one day....I can get no pay for what I do teach if I fail to get a certificate, so the sooner I get examined the better. Put my saddle in the house so people cannot help themselves to it.* She wrote about the lawsuit regarding the homestead, and then, w*hen you bring my cows over be sure to bring Lade for one, for I see now what a good milker her mother is. Lydia is milking her now and I think Lade will be just like her....I did not think Mr. Larsen could get witnesses to swear for him regarding the homestead. How did he manage it? I hope you do let Mr. Grimmett have the chance of the land if he will pay the expenses. I would much rather you did. Has Larsen done anything about that note yet? Do you hear from home? Do they say anything of Mart Web?*

[39] Jimmie Nowland was a relative newcomer to Dingle, having arrived around 1888. He had a 360 acre farm near the Bear River in section 17. The Ream Crockett Canal ran right through it. He was a civil war veteran and a member of Johnson's army, who had been decommissioned at Fort Bridger and freighted between Helena, Montana and Corinne, Utah until he married a Mormon girl and joined the church. They had 12 kids and he worked on the thrasher and as the coroner. He was the first person in Dingle to have a telephone.

They were both worried about that debt to Will's family. Will's brother John was trying to find a way to help with the canvassing. John was attending normal school, boarding at home to save money and driving in each morning, trying to get a certificate to teach. *I promise to come out this fall, if not, in the spring. I have got a pretty good thing offered me for making stump speeches this fall and then if I can get a school I think I had better teach, it will help fit me up for business when I do come. I want to have it so, when I come I can stay a while. If you think you can beat Frank Larsen honestly, and of course you won't try any other way, maybe I can assist you financially, that is if you give what you said. Hold him and that other dam heathen down if you can. Don't let them get the best of you if you can....Come back this fall and maybe I will go back with you.* I do not know who "that other dam heathen" would have been.

Their younger brother Jim was also thinking of helping Will. *We are all well except Pa. Pa said many thanks for naming your boy after him. He said it would make a good man if he ever done the works he has done. Well maybe I am coming out in the spring if nothing happens.*

Will's optimism continued, but he was beginning to see that the legal affair would be longer and more expensive than he had hoped. He wrote to Nora: *Mr. Duddenhausen said that Larsen had one chance in 1000...but it cost me more than D- said. If I win I can get my money back by selling my right....I was in Paris every day that week....I have a letter from John, I will send it. I told you about selling all the cattle and hay but 16 which I will bring over to Cache....Will sent a note to Archie...about the cattle....I am getting tired working on this plan, hard work no pay...but if I win it won't be so bad, which I am very sure to do, but even then I...almost wish I had not commenced, but as you know I could not help it.*

Around August 25th Will informed Nora that *Mrs. Sirrine has a boy came yesterday*[40] and then set out to drive their cattle over Idaho's Immigration Canyon to Preston. Before leaving, he updated Nora on the law suit. *Larson has not done anything as yet. He demanded payment is all, but he will have to sue and get a judgement. By that time I hope to have all in good shape providing I can't beat him, but I think I can beat him on a point of law....I think I shall be in Preston before you get this. Your saddle is all right. About your teaching...you will have to go your length on this term....may God add his blessing to your efforts and all will end well.* Will returned to Bear Lake immediately. On the way back from Preston he found choke cherries, *the finest ever. I want to be off within 10 days if I can.* He was going to Montana.

But he wrote to Nora from Dingle the next day, September 12th. *I feel better now than I did before coming down. I have gained 9 lbs. I had one of the chickens. When I came home there was nothing to eat, so I had to kill one. I now have Lade up milking her.* He had not taken her to Nora as requested. *I got one lb. of butter....Things looked dismal on my return. I did not feel much like coming in. I have been thinking of getting a job in the round house and have you come up as soon as your term is out. I will have to go to Montana. I have a letter from a*

[40] The baby was James Warren Sirrine.

lady agent there that is to work under my management and the (publishing) house had made arrangements for me to look after their territory. They are sending all letters to me from applicants in that region and I guess I am somewhat bound to give them a little while of my time....I am going to work on ditch tomorrow. Jonnie Grimmett has got the cut done...and we will finish the levee in Oakey's pasture...Saturday night....I had a letter from John Ream and enclosed one from Mart—one he wrote to Pa....He wants to sell Pa the note....He says he thinks Larsen and I are working a game of some kind....He offers it for $25 less that it calls for....I have just made an offer for it. John is teaching the Union school (near Chariton)*....How does the girl get along and do you like her? Does she take good care of the children (and) help Lydia?*

It is interesting that Mart thought Will and Larsen were playing a game. That suggests that the debt did not belong to Will alone, but to both of them. Interesting also, that Mart was trying to sell his note to Sampson Mitchell Ream, Will's father.

There were no more letters until October 10, 1888. My guess is that shortly after writing the previous letter, Will again returned briefly to Nora in Preston before setting out by train for Montana. He would not return until January. The first letter came from Butte. He wrote from Dillon on October 14th. By October 28th he was working hard in Twin Bridges. I think several letters of this period must be missing from Nora's collection. Apparently Nora was helping him with the accounting. *Fifty-four orders for the chart and 19 for the U.S.* He wrote that he didn't need her to send money after all, and enclosed orders for her to send to S. Harris the publisher, for *I will have to pay in advance for all books at that house.*

On November 2nd at the Bear Lake County Courthouse, Frank recorded the purchase of his mother's homestead in Dingle for $3,500. This was eight months after her official patent had been issued. He had, of course, been using that property for years while she was living in Wardboro with her daughter. It was where he had built his house and sold the two acres to Will. Frank was obtaining title in order to mortgage the rest of the property for his own purposes.

Will was in Laurin, Montana by November 5th. Recognizing that Nora's fall term was ending, he wanted to make sure that Nora had quit teaching as promised. He was optimistic that Montana would be fertile enough to discharge his debts without her help and was hoping to stay much longer than planned to fully capture the potential. *I am wondering if you have closed school. I make myself believe you have quit and take he best care of our boys. If I cannot make the required amount by spring we can sell something. I am feeling down for many*

Laurin, Montana, now a ghost town

reasons. First, I have had no letters, second am quite lame. I have almost 100 orders, 67 desks, and 31 histories, which I think quite good for the time I have been away. If I had come here instead of going to Boise I would have been on good footing. I shall get a spring wagon and a tent and get 2 or 3 good young fellows, John and Miller, for instance and canvas (Montana) thoroughly. I believe I can make it pay one grand. He was still hoping that his brother John would join him. I don't know who Miller was, but think he might have been Harry Miller, the 18 year old future brother-in-law of Mitchell, Will's younger brother in Iowa.

John's letter written three weeks later must have disappointed Will. *I have begun my winter term of school. Have taught almost two weeks of school. I board at home and that gives me a 3 miles walk. I start from home before sun up and don't get home until dark. I get $30 per month, only have 18 scholars enrolled.* He would not be coming to Montana anytime soon. He didn't seem to even understand that Will had been counting on him: *I heard you was selling books again.*

In mid-November, 1888 Will made a quick train trip back to Preston to visit Nora and the two boys. I think part of that trip was to set up a new branch of business, selling trees. He had written to her from Dillon, asking her to *call on Mr. Sharp and engage all of his box elders, that (are) 2 and 3 year(s) old at 4 cents each and pay him $5 to bind the deal. Find out what other kinds he has. Then a pencil notation: 50 Ash @ 10 cent 4 yr., 200 Soft Maples 10 cents 4 yr. Old. 400 B.* I was able to discover that there was a man named William Sharp in Ogden, who was a farmer and gardener, but there were no Sharps in Logan or Preston.

Nora sent him away on November 29th with two pies, the second of which he was just finishing off as he approached Pocatello, where he had to transfer trains to get back to his work in Montana. He sent this off from the station*. I so much wish you could be with me. I believe that dull, sad look would leave your once animated face. A few years of married life has made such a change in you that I feel quite guilty of some bad act....I shall endeavor to have a change for you soon.*

But when he arrived at Dillon he wrote, *I shall not do as well with the trees as I expected. Have not seen the board yet but Poindexter said they could not get the water on the ground soon enough to keep them alive. He will take 200 I guess. Have not got him to sign the order yet.* But the next day, *in better cheer than yesterday. J.B.K. came down on the train and all is well. I shall commence in the morning....I believe I would have made money had I got the cattle wintered in Bear Lake and kept on at work here. This is and was my best time for canvassing, getting a stock for holly day presents....It is nice to know how to pull the rope. If I only can pull the right one and hard enough on the tree business we will be safe and snug on our ranch.*

Business was booming, but Will was suffering from health issues. *I believe changing clime has almost put me in the box. I have a very bad cold but think I shall get along all right.* The problem was rheumatism, which was to plague him for the rest of his life.

He wrote again on December 15th. *Took orders for 150 trees this morning, sold them for 25 cents each. I have now 4,500. Also have a fellow going to work for me and a lady to sell books. Expenses are so very high I am afraid I can't stay here long. I will hold it down 'til Jan 1, then I shall go to Stinking Water,* likely a mineral bath for his aching body. *I don't think I will get down before spring. May go to the ranch about the first....I have just ordered 6 dozen desks.* I don't think he was speaking of furniture, more likely a desk reference. *By the way who is agent there for the desk? I fancy that it is John Read or O.A.C. Mark told me that he had eight sent off there the day before I left. He said they were for me but I can't believe it as I have had no word....Well Daisy, I am looking to hear every mail that you have quit school. I wish very much that you would do so but it seems to me that you will finish the term.*

Will had several people working for him, but wasn't satisfied with their effort. He had sold 5,000 trees, hoping to sell twice that amount. *I was to the temperance lecture last night—will go again tonight. It was good. Wish you could have been here. You must come up with me next spring.*

On Christmas Eve I had no place to go so went to a saloon and spent the evening. There was high times getting drunk and every other thing imaginable. On Christmas I walked round town.

He was spending more time in the mineral baths. He was going to "Stinkin' Water" *and the one at Puller Springs. I am going there for my rheumatism. I have been suffering a great deal lately from it. People say it cures every time. I may stay there a week or more.* He was hoping that he could be home around the first of February, but the exact time would depend upon his success treating the rheumatism. But business was panning out to the point that he hoped to get totally out of farm work. December 29th he wrote...*the fact is evident that I shall be able to clear the amount I want. Won't that be glorious to be able to meet all liabilities without selling anything....I may change my mind. It makes me shudder to think of going back to the ranch and living like we did the two years we were there. The fact is, I don't think I could do it, so you see the fix I am in. If I can hold up against the rheumatism till I get to Puller Spring I believe I will get through all right.*

He wrote again from Dillon on New Year's Eve. He was homesick and feeling romantic. *During our marriage you knew my life well up till last summer and since your leaving the ranch I have told you all by letter what was left unsaid by word, so my letter will be quite short on that point....I feel tonight that your pure love reaches me, and my feelings exclaim within me that you are a precious dear little wife and something seems to chide me and say I have done something to take the bloom from your cheeks. I feel that I owe you a greater debt than I shall...be able to pay....You have been all to me that any man could (wish). Wait but a little while and time will prove all.*

He played dice that night and sent Nora a gift that he bought with his winnings. He said that he would not gamble again. He returned to Laurin, Montana where he had taken an offer to teach school for the winter term. Nora was still teaching, which was a continual disappointment to Will.

He wrote to Nora January 7, 1889. *I am expecting to commence school as soon as I can get things arranged....Will go and find out for certain today. I think I shall have at least 20 scholars. I am awful homesick...but shall hold out till I get through. I believe I will make it all right....I am sorry you concluded to teach....If I had known your teaching depended on my coming down I should have come....I have two men selling trees for me. I will by spring have 20,000....I have sold 8,000 myself.*

Nora thought that if Will was to teach school, why not come to Preston to do it. She wrote on January 11th from Preston. *Since the holidays, school is hard. I have so many large boys, over sixty pupils and only ten girls. If I mistake not, you will soon be down and will not go back this winter. Well, why not come right away and take my school--or the one I am teaching--for two months. That would let you out in time to make your delivery of trees in the spring....By that time all the big boys will have to stay out to work and the school will be easy again, and if you are willing I would teach the summer or springtime....They need a man teacher....In June you will be through delivering trees and we could go home. How it thrills me to write the word. I am getting tired of being separated from myself, of being away from home, and oh, so tired of teaching in the winter.*

I think Nora was more excited about returning to their homestead in Dingle than was Will. She wanted to go home, and she was getting encouragement from Hattie Bird, their next door neighbor running Frank's boarding house, who wrote on January 14th, *I miss you Nora this winter and often look to your home and wish you was here....I cannot help but think it hard for you to be teaching and taking care of your little ones. I wish you was here at your little home once more....I often look over your place and long for both you and the children, for as I often used to say you and I never did belong to the little town.*

There were no more letters between them that winter. I think Will heeded Nora's suggestion and came home immediately to help her teach in Preston, leaving the Montana work to his staff.

Despite their separation, Will and Nora seem to have remembered Christmas presents for the Reams in Iowa. Well, at least Nora did. Will's mother Nancy wrote, *We got your presents. They was so nice everybody brags on them that sees them. We think they are so nice because you made them. Pa shows his handkerchief to everybody that comes. Dood (Durward) thinks so much of his socks that he won't wear them. I have let the girl take patterns off on my lace but they can't make it so nice.* Nancy wanted Nora and Will to make another trip to Iowa that spring.

They did not. They spent the spring in Preston, mostly together. The only hard evidence that I have of that comes from a handwritten bill of sale dated March 1, 1889 and written in Preston. *For sparling steer (good) for value received and am to deliver it on or between the 1 and 20 of April. Steer not marked or branded being red. Signed O.E. Johnson.* Will must have made a trip to Bear Lake that March, for on the ninth, a deed was filed at the courthouse from the U.S. Government to W. D. Ream for the north ½ of the SE and SW quarters of section 14, his second homestead.

Will had still not paid off the note to Mart and Emma Webb. But now the situation in Iowa had changed. In March Mart left Emma again, and this time it was for good. According to Emma, Mart, who dabbled in folk medicine, had deliberately overdosed her with morphine, induced her to sign a deed for their farm, sold it, and left her for dead. Emma had recovered, but was destitute and wanted Will to pay her directly, not Mart. She wrote that a $100 reward had been posted for Mart's arrest and she feared that he was on his way to Idaho to collect the debt personally from Will. Will was to have him arrested if he appeared.

Will was in Smithfield, Utah on March 27th, working on getting supplies for his tree business. He sent Nora a postcard. *I got here yesterday about noon. Cut 8,000 cuttings. Am well. Will leave here for Logan today noon.* But he needed to make a trip back to Dillon, where Nora wrote to him on April 7th. She had found an unexpected way to provide more income. *Wesley is getting very rough where there are too many boys to spoil him. I have been very busy since you were here. I have made my dress, crocheted Mitchel a petticoat,*[41] *and knit him one stocking since you went besides the other work. Last Monday I made and took to the bishop's store 4½ dozen popcorn balls. He was very glad to get them and in two days sent word for more....I took him 5½ dozen. He thinks he can sell quite a few. Pa brought part of my corn from Preston and it pops just as nice as A.O.L.* (Archie) *can pop it....Very glad to get your card for I was very anxious to hear from you.*

When school in Preston was out for the summer, Nora returned for a time to Dingle. I do not know whether or not Will was with her. Since there were no letters after March, I think that his trip to Montana had been brief.

Will's sister Emma wrote a long letter to Nora on May 1st explaining her situation with Mart. She had brought suit against the man who had bought their farm from Mart, accusing them of conspiring against her.

For the Larsen case, court was held in Paris on May 10th, but there was no decision--the case was continued. I assume that Will was there but have no proof. Perhaps the case was continued precisely because he had been excused.

At any rate, he was not in Dingle when Nora set out for Logan on June 12. Archie had given her train fare for a surprise visit to her mother. She told of her trip from the ranch to the train in Montpelier. *We got along nicely, only it was very cold. I was quite provoked when I got nearly to Montpelier to discover Ring* (their dog) *following us. I tried to make him go back but did not succeed so when we called at Pete Nelson's I got him to keep him, thinking you would soon be over for logs and could get him....When we got to Wixum's it was between sundown and dark. I was so chilled through I did not get warm till the next morning....Wesley has not wakened up yet and it is nearly eleven AM. I do not know if he is feeling well for it is so unusual for him to sleep late....I am not quite as homesick as I was....Take care of yourself, dear Will, and so not forget to pray every day for yourself and us. This life is so uncertain and so*

[41] Little boys wore dresses in those days until they were allowed to wear pants at about age three.

full of Evil that we should ever be watchful and prayerful that we may escape the pitfalls in our path. We send much love and many kisses....Nora.

Ruth and Ozro Crockett

There is a good reason why Nora spent so much time in Preston. That is where three of her five older siblings lived. David and Emma Crockett had been there at least since 1886. In 1889 they had six kids under eleven. Ozro and Ruth had been there with their six kids since before 1884, about when Lydia and Archie moved there. Their oldest sister Mary would also be moving to Preston to begin teaching school in Whitney, in September 1892. Nora's older sister Delia had married a polygamist named Edwin Morrel Curtis, and moved to Arizona from Logan in spring of 1890, and then to Mexico until after the Manifesto. Roxie had married in October 1889 and settled in Logan, where all other younger children and Annie's kids were living with their parents. The exception was Willie, who had actually moved to Bear Lake County. He was as yet unmarried and teaching school in Bennington but would soon marry and live near Will and Nora in Dingle. As we shall see, Nora's oldest sister Mary Smith and her daughter Mamie would settle in Dingle as well.

I think that Nora, the children, and Will were all together again shortly after that trip, since there were no more letters saved between them until June of 1891. After a difficult year apart, when neither of them spent much time in Dingle, they were finally able to have two uninterrupted years together in their cabin next door to the Birds and the Frank Larsen's house.

John Grimmett

1889 was the year that WD Ream and John Grimmett began building a three mile long canal from Bear River to irrigate Dingle land, probably during the fall. It was initially called the Ream Grimmett Canal, but is now the Ream Crockett Canal. John was about Will's age and had with his father's family been one of the earliest to settle in Dingle, arriving when he was 14 years old in 1872. He later went to Lander, Wyoming with his family, but returned after a couple of years to marry Louisa Neat in 1883 and to work a farm of 400 acres in Dingle. His wife wrote much later in his biography that *others stripped him of his farm after an unlucky business venture.* Although his father had joined the RLDS, John was a stalwart Mormon, serving as a counselor to Samuel Humpherys in the Dingle

Building the Dingle Canal

Ward bishopric for 16 years. He was a Bear Lake County commissioner and probate judge in 1896.

On July 1, 1889 Frank Larsen filed a mortgage deed on his section 13 property (excluding the part sold to Will earlier) with W. H. Cannahan in SLC for $1,650. He filed another mortgage against the same property in October for an additional $1,800 for a 5-year payback to two other parties.

Emma had heard about Will winning the first phase of the legal wrangle with Frank, and figured that Will now had the money to pay the note to her. Having lost her home, she had left Palmyra, Iowa to live with her sister Edith at the home of their cousin Alexander Art in Hartford, 40 miles north of Chariton. She wrote on September 17, 1889 that she was glad that Will had won the suit and asked him on which terms he wished to settle. I'm sure she was disappointed with his reply. All he had won so far was a single crop of hay.

Lydia was now writing to Nora, missing her company in Preston. On September 23rd she wrote, *Sorry you have been so sick. Hoping we would have our house started before I wrote to you. Archie intends to build and finish one room. He has got the granary moved down there. We had 715 bushels of wheat but the corn was not much this year. Hazel has been walking all around by things for more than two months but does not creep or try to go alone. Emma's baby does not stand on its feet at all and Bertha's baby cannot get around nearly as good as Hazel....Guy does not forget Wesley and Mitchel. Whenever I speak to him of Wesley he never forgets to say "and Mitto."* (Mitchel). Tragically, little Hazel died that December.

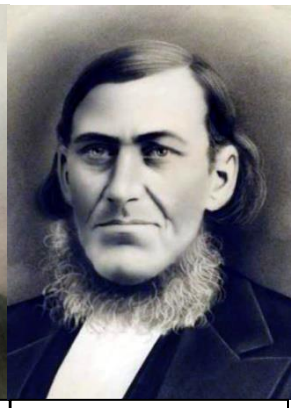
On January 11, 1890 Nora and Lydia's little sister Roxie mentioned the event. *Too bad about poor sweet little Hazel. And poor Lydia. I think the poor soul should must be nearly heartbroken. I could not go up to the funeral for my own sweet babies' sakes. I was astonished to hear that poor little "puny" Mitchel weighs 30 lbs.* He was by then 21 months old. Then she added, *You want to know the particulars concerning Pa's charge. Well, all I know is he went to Provo and was charged with murder and the time of the trial is in February. Sometime he had to employ two lawyers (Mormons) and they said it would cost him at least $1000 and maybe his life in the bargain, but he was let off on bail and George and Charley Hancock was put in prison to wait the trial as they would not trust them on bail. It seems as though there is nothing now days but trouble.*

Their father Alvin, the sheriff of Logan, had been arrested for an event that had happened 31 years earlier. There was no more about the episode in the family letters, but I found some newspaper articles on the topic. On November 22, 1889 there appeared an announcement in a Salt Lake newspaper *THAT '57 MURDER*[42], reporting that Alvin Crockett, George, and Charles Hancock had been arrested for conspiracy in a 1857 Payson lynching. Alvin was released on bail of $3000. A week later the Deseret News published under the headline *THE USUAL DISH OF SENSATIONS* an article explaining the lynching of a young man named Jones and his mother who had produced a baby through *the horrible and*

[42] Actually, the murder took place on April 24, 1858. See pages 286-288 for the whole story.

unnatural crime of incest. The paper defended the vigilante justice and accused gentile judge Anderson of resurrecting the case for political purposes to Congress.

Charles Brent Hancock



George W. Hancock

At the time, Alvin Crockett had been the leader of the Payson militia. Charley Hancock had been the bishop in Payson, and his brother George was a leading businessman there. Charley was also Alvin's brother-in-law, having married Malinda Melissa Crockett. Although Nora's grandfather David Crockett had been the mayor of Payson at that time, he was not indicted.

On March 10, 1890 Charles Hancock, after a period of incarceration, and Alvin were discharged when the grand jury refused to indict them. George Hancock was convicted of second degree murder.[43] Roxie announced the Alvin's release to Nora on March 17th. *Some news concerning our father's arrest....I have the pleasure of stating that he is once more a free man, being discharged. For they could get no evidence against him and he is now on a short visit to Payson.*

Edwin Morrell Curtis

That same day Nora's sister Delia wrote about her own problems with the marshals. Her polygamist husband had fled to San Francisco and was trying to set up an escape for the family to Mexico*. I waited a few days thinking E.M. might get home and then I could tell you something definite, but the last I heard from him he was in San Francisco, but I can say this much, he has bought property in Old Mexico although at present it is not to be generally known. Now my dear sister, do be sure and come over for conference and then I can talk as I cannot write....Mary has been up here a month but went home yesterday.* E.M. would be her husband, Edwin Morrell Curtis, a tinsmith, apparently in hiding from polygamy persecution. At that time Delia had four children ages 2-8. She was a 2nd wife. Her next child, Mary Lucille, was born December 5, 1890 in Chihuahua, Mexico, so Delia must have been with E.M. soon. They moved to Mexico in May. Later they moved to Thatcher, AZ before October 7, 1895.

The family celebrated Alvin's release by getting together in Logan. A delighted Sophia wrote to Nora on April 20th*. Much company...from Preston....All went to the temple...then got pictures taken. Delia went (to Arizona) last Thursday. I do not know whether any of us will ever see her again....Mary is moving up to Preston and I am so lonely....She is going to sell her place. I wish you could buy it. How is the law suit getting on? I hope old Larsen will not get the better of Will. I hope right will conquer.*

[43] *Provo Daily Enquirer*, March 1890.

Well, the law suit was finally nearing a verdict. It was announced on June 10th in the South Idaho Independent newspaper in Paris. *In the civil suit No 1. W. D. Ream vs Frank Larsen, the defendant failing to answer to the complaint a default was entered and after testimony taken it was ordered that plaintiff pay defendant $100 and that defendant make a good and sufficient conveyance of the property in controversy to plaintiff. In the civil suit Ream vs. Larson the decision gave the land to the plaintiff and awarded him $100 damages for hay taken by defendant from the land last year.*

It took me a while and a trip to the Bear Lake County courthouse to fully figure this verdict out. W. D. Ream was the plaintiff. Basically, he won by default because Frank Larsen, the defendant, failed to answer the complaint. He had not paid for the hay the previous year either. So he was ordered to convey the property and pay for the hay. Will had won.

The land in question was in the south half of section 14, the southern part of Will's homestead.[44] Apparently John Grimmett did not buy part of the land as he had promised, at least at that time, because later Ream letters from Iowa suggest that Will's debt had still not been repaid.

On August 8th there appeared in the Independent a notice issued by the county commissioners that W.D. Ream had petitioned for a right of way across Larsen's land to get water and physical access to his own land. This was for the lot that he had purchased from Frank next to the Dingle Dell Ranch. After losing the lawsuit on the homestead, Frank had refused to allow Will to get access across his land for irrigation water to the house. Will got a ruling to allow a 30 rod ditch a foot deep and two feet wide across Frank's land after fair compensation. On September 12th, Frank Larsen was nominated for County Commissioner on the Liberal ticket. I have no evidence that he won, but he was definitely still in Bear Lake.

Nora and Will's third son, Lee Emerson Ream was born in the cabin east of the Dingle road on September 11, 1890. A passage from Wesley's autobiography gives a clue to when the family moved west across Dingle road to enlarge their cabin. *Shortly after we returned from Preston, my brother Lee was born. When he was about four months old Father built a one room, stooped roof shanty, about ten by fourteen feet, on the homestead and we moved into it. It*

The Ream Cabin in the 1890s

[44] See map on page 68.

was below the hill, in the bottom land, and we never went back to live on the hill, though we always kept the place. If they really moved four months after Lee's birth, the move would have been made in January, which seems a little unlikely to me.

There is still a ruin on the lot on which the Dingle Mansion now stands, which the Dingle Ream descendants refer to as "the summer cabin." It seems likely that as the family grew and visitors came, until the mansion was built, members of the family slept on both sides of the road.

Will's brother Jim Ream wrote on May 31, 1891 from Chariton. Most of the letter was directed to Nora and contained a lot of family gossip expressed in teenage slang and cool talk. Then ...this *is the worst place we live, I ever seen. We can't have a bit of fun, it seems that they are all damned deadbeats that lives around here.* He wanted her to come and visit and bring his little nephews. To Will he wrote some advice about the family debt. It was still an issue. *You wrote about that money. It is not much to us whether you pay it. Only if Chustan* (did he mean Martin?) *wants it, he will come on the old man, and he will come on you. It looks like you could compel Larsen to sign the papers and lease that piece of land out and give the mortgage on the rest of it.* I don't quite follow that.

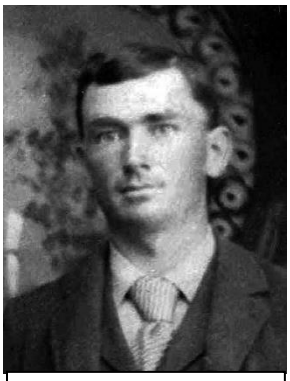
In 1891 Bell Telephone began installing in Paris, Idaho homes.

On May 29, 1891 an announcement ran in the South Idaho Independent that Frank Larsen would start his express wagon between Montpelier and Logan soon. That is the last mention that I have found that links Frank to Bear Lake. As far as I know, he had no further relationship with Nora and Will. His name did not crop up in the newspapers again until 1894 in Salt Lake City. I was able to put together much of Frank's life after this point, since his name tended to appear often in the newspapers. During the year 1894 his name appeared in a series of newspaper advertisements for his new financial endeavor, scavenging. I looked this up. He had a pump and a wagon that were used for cleaning out septic tanks. He was mentioned that year in a newspaper report of a meeting of Salt Lake Democrats and in advertising for a new Salt Lake dancing academy, of which Frank was the manager. He was cited in 1896 for mistreatment of a dray horse, which had been pulling his pump wagon. The complaint was registered by none other than his boss, the head of the public work's department, who happened to be an animal rights enthusiast. On December 18, 1886 Frank was arrested for cleaning a cesspool without a license. Undaunted, he was still running ads in 1897 for cesspool management. The Salt Lake newspapers were silent on Frank for several years after that. On January 13, 1904 Frank Larsen married Clomenia Phelps Pratt, one of the many daughters of Orson Pratt. He was her fourth husband. Her previous husband, Anthony Conrad Ivins died 22 Dec 1904, after the marriage to Frank. Her first husband, Samuel Low, died in 1905. Her second husband,

Clomenia Phelps Pratt

William Bailey died in 1947, so all were alive when she married Frank, and all evidently divorced. She had a 26 year old daughter and an eight year old daughter at the time of their marriage. In 1907 when Frank was working as a waiter at the Salt Palace he was arrested for breaking the Sunday liquor ordinance. He was arrested again the next year for night hunting and again in 1909 for vagrancy. More respectably, he was mentioned in 1910 for selling 24 acres of land in northeast Salt Lake City to a developer. In an article reporting a large family reunion for the Orson Pratt family he was mentioned as a dance instructor for the occasion. In 1913 he was arrested again, this time for sleeping drunk in the theater. On February 26, 1916 Frank Larsen died at the age of 63. His profession was given as a scavenger for the City of Salt Lake, retired in 1916. He and Clomenia had lived on 10th avenue.

Will's mom Nancy wrote on June 12th. They had been so long in writing to her, she had concluded that they had moved to some foreign country. Then another little joking jab: *I was just a going to write to Larsen asking if you was dead or moved away.* She put in another pitch for them to visit her and an update on all the Iowans. *From your pore old Ma. Write soon and often. Kiss the children for me.*


Willie Crockett

But Nora was not in Dingle to receive the letter. She was in Logan with the little boys. Will wrote on June 12th that Fred and Archie had been with him in Dingle, but were on their way to Cache. I think they had come to help him to prepare the new cabin down the hill on his homestead. Apparently her brothers John and Hite Crockett had been there too, and possibly even Willie. *Archie is going to bring Lida over (to Dingle from Preston) to Will's wedding.* Willie and Stella were married in Soda Springs on July 20th. *I don't know whether I will get down or not...for the house would have to go unfinished. Hite and John said they would daub and white wash it while I was gone, but they have gone back out, so I would have to do it alone. Will is putting lots of style. He has got him a new buggy and harness. I told Fred to tell you I would sent you some money tomorrow. I would like if possible for you to be here for Will's wedding as I will not be able to go.* On the back he added, *(I've) been locked in the jury room all day and missed the mail.*

Nora wrote on June 21st from Logan. *I have not said anything to John or Roxie yet about coming over, for I have not had a chance. Hite is talking of coming over the Bear Lake this summer. He does not think there will be much brick work here. He told me to ask you if there was likely to be much work for a mason at Montpelier.*

Wesley recalled in his memoir that the improved road through Logan Canyon that summer made passage to Logan much faster and more frequent for Nora and the kids in a one-horse cart. Her father and many other men from Logan were hauling lumber from Logan Canyon to build the temple.

That summer Lydia Lamoreaux with her husband Archie and five kids ages 12, 9, 4, 3, and infant sold their farm in Preston and bought one in Dingle. Guy Lamoreaux was just about Wesley's age and lived only 1.5 miles away. They became great friends.

I'm not sure when Nora returned that summer from Logan, but her mother was writing to her from Logan by September 5th. *I had a very lame back and I get very tired. Roxie and children are here. Hyrum and John Crockett are getting along splendid with Roxie's house...but they will have to start college Monday. I hope Henry will be here tonight so he can start too....Take extra good care of dear little Lee. Your father's health is very poor but a little better now....Your father's cousin Ella, husband, and two children have been here...on their way to Maine where her folks live. Your father hired a rig and took them all over town....You must kiss the little boys for me. Your loving Mother, Mary S. Crockett.*

On December 17, 1891 Nora had another boy. They named him Fabian.

Mitchel, Fabian, Lee, Wesley 1892

On February 5, 1892 the South Idaho Independent carried the notice of a continuance in a case between Ream v. Larsen. Everything had not been settled. Perhaps this was about the irrigation ditch issue.

In July, 1892 William (Willie) and Mona Estelle Crockett's first baby Alvin Joseph was born and died in Dingle.

Before August, Will Ream had finished a 14' x 20' log room onto the south of the "shanty." The "Hall" was built in Dingle by Quayles and others, a two story building 40' x 60' for dances, dramas, concerts, and suppers. Hyrum Oakey led the brass band on coronet.

That winter Nora's mother Sophia became ill and Nora went to Logan to help. On December 20th, she wrote to Will. *Mother is improving some but is very sick yet....If she keeps on improving I will come up with the boys Friday night.*

In 1893 there was a financial panic in the whole nation causing a severe 3 year depression. No doubt this was felt in Bear Lake as well. In March, Mary Smith ended her six months teaching in Whitney, which was six miles southeast of Preston. She wrote, *(I) need a good rest....Lydia is very sick...with her old complaint rheumatism. She gets no sleep unless she uses laudanum. She looks worse than I have ever seen her....I presume all Dingle will be going to Salt Lake City to the dedication* of the temple*....Mamie and Chess went to a mask ball....Tell Mitchel that I will come up there soon if he will promise to kiss me.*

Ida and Nora

On April 8th, Sophia wrote from Logan, that she was so very sorry for Willie and Estella. *I wish she could come and go through the temple....Nora I am worried about Lydia. She is so very sick and her heart is affected. I am thinking of going up there to Preston to see her if I can get a pair of shoes and the money to go with you*. *Your Father just got home from Salt Lake last night. He said that he had a grand time in the Temple. He was at the dedication two days. Mary and her two boys, George, John, and Roxie and Hyrum are in Salt Lake now. They will go in the Temple tomorrow....Ozro and Ruth are going too if they can leave Lydia....I wish you would tell me when you are looking for a certain blessing from Heaven.* Nora was pregnant. Her first girl, Ida Nora, was to be born a month later on June 7, 1883. *I must write to Dear Wesley. We all could read his letter. It seems curious that he reads in the third reader. Your loving Mother.* That summer Wesley began working the farm in a man's place at age seven. They had 320 acres under cultivation and irrigation.

Will's mother, Nancy Ream also wrote that summer. She said that Jim Ream was planning to go to the Oklahoma Cherokee strip, which was opening up soon to homesteading. *You wrote about the notes. Yes, Pa got them. You needn't to have sent them, but you needn't hurry to pay them, not at all.*

Will was still worried about family debts, this time what he owed to his father.

On December 3rd, Sophia wrote again to Nora from Logan. *(Thanks to) you and Will for the nice things that you sent....I gave Roxie the smallest goose and a piece of meat....I do not think I ever saw such a big fat goose in my life and the cheese was splendid.*

But by the time that letter arrived, Will may have already gone east alone to visit his family. Nora wrote, *the day you left Stella gave birth to a little girl, it lived several hours but moaned every breath. I was not up there. Took some cheese to Burgoyne's store and bought the children each a good pair of shoes. I guess you will be home to your native home before this letter gets there.* And then on the day after Christmas Nora wrote: *This was the most lonesome old Christmas I ever saw. I was actually homesick....The pigs and hogs seem to be doing well....Kids are well, we all miss you. Hope you are having a good time and that the folks are all well. I got a letter from Jim the other day. Tell him I will answer it soon unless he comes out with you.*

On January 7, 1894 Sophia had heard of Stella and Willie's loss and wrote to them and Nora together. To Stella she wrote, *I am so sorry that you lost your dear little baby.* (Little Alice was born and died December 15. Stella's previous and first child Joseph also failed to survive his first day in 1892.) *I hope you will have better luck next time.*

On April 1st Lydia Lamoreaux had a daughter whom she named Nora. Because of health problems of her own and her husband's they sold their farm in Dingle and moved to Arizona. It took them several weeks to travel there. They never moved back to Idaho.

Nora and Will were raising pigs. Sophia wrote in May, *Good luck with your many little pigs, it would be awful nice to see so many...*and said that she had distributed the photos of Nora's little boys to the Logan Crocketts.

Jim Ream, front left with flag, having a good time with the Dingle band.

Jim Ream had been in Idaho in 1894, having failed to secure an Oklahoma homestead. Evidently he was planning to return to Iowa in October and bring Will with him. Nancy wrote to Nora coaxing her to return with them before she forgot where the family lived. The recession had been complicated by bad crop conditions. *Well Nora, there is nothing raised hear this winter. No corn now. No hay. Nothing to feed our stock on this winter. If we had raised a good crop me and Pa was coming out this winter. But we can't come now. But we'll look for W. D. and you back. Jim wrote and told us that you had quite a snow out there.* Jim was working in a mill in Montpelier and liked it awfully well. His mother hoped that he would stay with it and would save his money. *He would not do that here....He could not get along with Mitch. They would quarrel all the time.*

During the winter of 1895 there were very few letters saved from anyone. In November, Grandma Sophia Crockett exchanged letters with eight year old Wesley. Sophia wrote to Nora in February. *I have quit drinking tea and coffee, so I have the head ache most all the time but I am getting over it.* She expected to go to Arizona in the following October for the winter. I'm sure she planned to spend plenty of time with both Lydia and Delia's families. Delia had returned from Colonia Juarez, Mexico and was living in Thatcher as were the Lamoreauxes. But that spring Sophia went to Dingle, presumably to support Willie and Stella with her third pregnancy. On March 31 they had a baby named Estella Verna, the first to survive birth.[45]

Certainly Sophia also spent time with Nora and Will. By then Nora and Will had five kids ages 2-9 and Nora was expecting Douglas in November. She was in her first trimester and was possibly having morning sickness. Sophia said she felt Nora looked *just about give out when I was there.*

[45] Estella Verna lived 89 years. Willie and Stella would have five more children.

On June 30, 1894 Will's oldest sister Emma died at the age of 37 in Humboldt, Iowa. Her life had been a hard one. I hope that Will had gotten her fully repaid.

On August 20th, Ozro's 16 year old daughter Ruth wrote from Preston that her Grandma Sophia, who had been visiting them would start for Dingle next Friday. She added some gossip: *Mary Reed has been in prison for fornication. You will read all about it in the Journal. They say Logan is getting bad fast.*[46]

On November 8, 1895 George Douglas Ream was born in the Dingle cabin.

The following week, W. D. Ream signed a contract to deliver a carload of (60-70) hogs to Whelan Brothers in Rock Springs on December 15th.

George Douglas Ream

1896 was the year that Utah became a state. The same year, Idaho adopted woman suffrage, which was a victory for Nora, who had been an activist in the cause. Will was involved in public causes, too. An announcement in the Montpelier Examiner appeared on June 20th: *W. D. Ream, president of the Taxpayers' Club writes the Examiner that he will answer the charges made in last week's paper in our next issue. It will be looked for by many of our readers,* and sure enough, the next week's issue carried a long letter from Will. The charge had been that some members, including the officers, of the Taxpayers Political Club of Dingle had run their stock over the line into Wyoming to escape paying taxes on them in the county. The newspaper had opined that the club should disband.

Will eloquently responded that the club should not be the target, but he alone. *I am the party and the only party in Dingle, that knowingly has stock in the state of Wyoming, and I here exonerate all members that belong to the Dingle Political Reform Club, also all citizens of Dingle and consider that shot fired directly at myself (but consider it only a fizzle.)* Then he defended in detail his rights as an American citizen, exposed inequities in the county tax system, and the decline in the Bear Lake cattle industry in the face of a burgeoning sheep population, which were not taxed at all.[47]

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[46] Mary was indeed written up in the Logan Journal of August 17th. She had been caught spending the night with an actor in the Uncle Tom's Cabin show. She was arrested the next day by the Logan officer McCulloch, pending an order sending her to the Territorial Reform School. The next evening the young man was arrested by Sheriff Turner during a performance in Smithfield. I couldn't identify the girl for sure, but she was married in Payson a year later to David Alfred Bennett. I suspect she was Mary Rosella Elmina Reed, daughter of Nora's brother Samuel Jones Reed. I could not identify the young man, but this frisky maiden was eventually married four times. She had two kids with Bennett before divorcing and marrying Arthur Sink in Logan in 1902. Arthur died in 1905 leaving Mary with their daughter and two stepchildren. Mary married Joseph Hyrum Silson in 1911, bearing another daughter. After another divorce, she married Otto Greenhagen and had five more kids.

[47] Digital Archives of Bear Lake County, *Montpelier Examiner*, June 27, 1896, page 1.

The next day Sophia Crocket wrote to Nora from Logan that she had a nice little cow that was giving four gallons of milk a day and five pounds of butter a week with a nice heifer calf. *Has your Pa and Ma Ream come yet? Well Nora if you keep on perhaps you will get as large and fat as your sister Mary....She weighs 195. I think she will go two hundred now.*

That fall, Wesley received his first public schooling at age 10. He was sent to Logan because his parents did not trust the local school, attending Woodruff School. He began in the third grade, C group. After a month he was moved to the B class, then Class A, and finally to fourth grade a month later. He stayed five months, and then returned to Dingle.

Beulah at age 3

Beulah was born in Dingle on January 26, 1897.

Evidently Will's response to the *Montpelier Examiner* impressed the editors, for there followed periodically several favorable articles about his farm business. On February 3, 1897 the newspaper wrote: *W. D. Ream during the past few days has shipped six cars of oats, two of hay and one each of hogs and cattle He expects to load three of oats and seven of hay yet this winter. Farming is what pays, and Mr. Ream is considered one of the most successful men in the valley.* The recession had ended, and Will's farm business was flourishing.

Will wrote to Henry W. Crockett, Nora's 21 year old brother in Logan on April 18th, asking Henry to file on a piece of land, which he had his eye on. Will would pay him a reasonable price. *If you come over and see us you maybe can get work.* About that time, Sophie Crockett had paid Will and Nora a visit. Upon returning she wrote on May 16th. *How does Will like his leather suspenders? Did I leave my glasses there or not? Was little George glad to get home?*

Farm work was booming in Iowa as well. On May 21st Will's brother John wrote from Chariton that he saw prospects for a favorable large corn crop and low prices. He would like to have Will send two cars of cattle to feed.

On June 9th the Examiner interviewed Will regarding the outlook for crops that year. *"He answered, the outlook is as good as I have ever seen in Bear Lake. Everything points to an immense yield in grains and hay."...Mr. Ream is one of the largest farmers in the valley and the Examiner is glad that he looks for so much for our citizens.*

Nora was in Logan with the two oldest boys. Will wrote to her on June 14th that he was working hard, losing weight, *gaunt as a Lucerne fed horse after a 40 mile drive....Thinking of coming down after you and if John and Roxie wanted to come, bringing them and have John help put up the first crop of Lucerne and have them take you all back....Well old Ring got home....He must have had a hard deal of it....Don't think I begrudge you your visit....I will send you some money soon....Old Fleet has a colt...just a little one. Tell Wesley and Mitchel about it.*

Beulah wrote of that time, *Mother and dad were both school teachers before they were married. Mother started teaching school when she was 16. When she had four kids, she went*

back and I don't think she finished getting her degree at college but she went back to the A.C. in Logan. With four kids. They were always interested in books and education. Mother never squandered money on anything. But every year she sent back east and got a great big box of books. I have some gorgeous books that they had.

That fall Nora went back to school in Logan with the boys again, this time taking all the children. Nora was preparing to go to school herself, this time not to teach, but to attend college classes. I think she had moved into her sister Mary's house. She wrote on October 7th, *Lee (age 9) got along in school yesterday without me. Two boys undertook to lick Wesley (age 11) because he was a newcomer....He came home with a black eye and a big mouth but he thinks the (other) boys had a worse looking eye and a big nose. A woman came along and separated them. I told the boys not to start a quarrel, but if the boys picked on them hit them first to give them the best they had. The baby and Douglas were very restless last night...*October 9: *I have been putting down the carpet....We will have quite a cozy little palace...but not like home without you. Mother says I can use her large parlor stove. I have not been up to the college yet...to see if I can arrange it to go. I can hire Roxie to tend the two babies....*Oct 10: *Saw president of the college....I told him (I wanted to take) German, algebra, and literature.*

She wrote again the following week, by then taking college courses at the Agricultural College. They had moved into the house and bought a stove. *Pa had to remove the door frame to get it in. Beulah has "the summer complaint"* (diarrhea) *and Wesley has had a fever.* Nora was struggling with German, taking many classes. Wesley needed shoes. She had $5 which she thought would last until Will came.

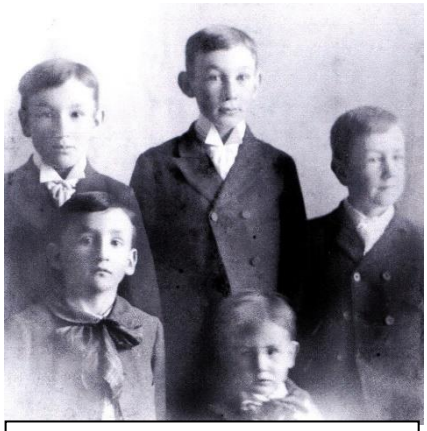
In January, 1898 Will was still in Dingle; Nora and the kids were still in Logan. Lee wrote in February, *Dear papa...have you sold any coal?* Fabian wrote two days later, *George and Beulah are better now. Mamma has a bad cold.*

On March 28, 1898, Nora's "aunt," Annie Naomi Peel Crockett, her father's second wife, died in Logan at age 50. She had been an invalid for the previous eight years, suffering some sort of cancer. Her obituary noted that *during recent years her suffering had been most intense, though through it all she was patient.*

Nora's mother, Sophia, was not well either. Will wrote on April 1st, *Hope your mother is better now. If she is not, you had better stay as long as you like. I will send you a nice birch rocker today and you can make her a present.*

Nora soon brought the boys home to Dingle. Sophia was well enough to write to her. *Mary, Roland, and Chess are in Preston. Roland intends to get married this summer and live in Mary's house a while....Does Will still think of going off to that awful place?* I wonder where that was. *I hope he has given it up....Tell Will I am very proud of my chair that he sent me.* And a week later on August 28th Nora wrote, *Mary started for Arizona yesterday. Sibyl is a tough baby. She can use some very bad words. How is Willie and Stella and Vernie?*

Come September, 1898, the boys were headed back to Logan for school again for the third year. Nora took them down and settled them into a boarding house, but did not stay there herself that winter. On October 13th she reported to Will. *Got here all right. Got the three oldest boys into Woodruff. Looking for a suitable house...to have the three boys board this winter and me stay home....Hope you, Ida, and Douglas* (ages 5 and 3) *are OK.* Beulah was traveling with Nora. They were back in Dingle before October 24th when her mother wrote*. Ozro is well and all of our Arizona friends are well. Delia has been to St. David on a kind of mission with some more women. Your boys are doing fine...look as happy as larks. They are all well in Preston.*



Rear: Mitchel Wesley Lee
Front: Fabian Douglas

Wesley wrote home to Fabian, on December 3rd: *Dear brother. We are all well. I wish you and Ida were down here to school. How is George? I am glad you are coming down here after Christmas...*and a much longer letter to Momma. I assume the family was together for Christmas, but the boys were back in Logan for the winter session. In February Wesley wrote to Nora: *Lee can wear his truss a little longer, it is broken bad. I have just been up to Grandma's. She is better.* Mitchel wrote in March: *Grandma is worse. She thinks of Pap's ring yet.* Grandma did not get better. Mary Sophia Reed Crockett died in Logan on June 2, 1899. She had been ill for about six months with dropsy and kidney complaint.

Sometime in 1899 Frank Larsen's house in Dingle burned to the ground and was never rebuilt. The fire left his tenants, the George and Harriet Bird family, homeless. They had been building a new house nearby, but it was not ready. Hyrum Oakey allowed them to move temporarily into his own new house. Unfortunately, Hyrum's wife Lena passed away suddenly in their old homestead cabin and she never got to live in the new house herself.

For two weeks in July this ad ran in the Montpelier Examiner: *A housekeeper, one that can take charge and do general housework. Good wages to right party. Apply to W. D. Ream, Dingle Idaho.* I wish I knew the story behind that.

This fall the kids did not go to Logan for school. Nora's schoolteacher sister Mary Smith was hired to teach her kids in Dingle. Mamie and Warren Sirrine went to school in the Ream cabin as well—perhaps there were other students. But Mary got sick and had to quit after about three months. By the next June, she had moved back to Preston and was teaching school in Weston.

Beulah wrote years later, *we had a huge library. We had two libraries. One was a reading library and one was a book library. Mother taught school in Dingle. She taught at the house. She took other students for a few months and taught for nothing. She taught the first four years in Dingle.*

On October 4, 1899 Ida Maud Ream, Will's youngest sister, married William Daniel Parsons in Chariton. She was 20 years old. On October 24th Emma Hodges Crockett, David's wife, died in Preston at the age of 46.

Will's brother John Paul Ream, after many earlier plans to do so had not panned out, finally came to Idaho from Iowa around that time. I have no evidence of it from letters, but Idaho birth records show that his fifth child, Roscoe Ream was born November 8, 1899 in the Montpelier Hospital. In the Montpelier Examiner on March 5, 1900 J. P. Ream advertised stoves for sale. However, his family was back in Benton Township, Iowa in time for the 1900 census in June.

On January 20, 1900, Rodney Ream was born in the Dingle cabin. That winter Will posted multiple ads in the Examiner. He was selling *first class oats* and coal.

And Will, the cattleman, had turned to raising sheep. In his autobiography, Wesley told a great story of shearing fifty sheep by hand in answer to a challenge when he was only thirteen years old. *My father used to run several thousand head of sheep. In the month of June of 1900, he had them in the mountains about fifteen or twenty miles northeast of Montpelier....I sheared my fifty in good time. They said I should keep on shearing, but I had had enough. I was stiff for several days, but I showed them that it could be done.*

The turn of the 20th century marked the peak of the sheep industry in the mountain west. A national tariff on wool in 1897 supported this growth as did the vast amount of land in Utah and Southeastern Idaho which could support sheep, even when unsuitable for other range animals. Between 1890 and 1900, domestic sheep in the Rocky Mountain states nearly doubled from 9.5 million head to 18 million, doubling their share of the total national wool output from 23 to 45 percent. It appears that Will took advantage of this boom until it ran out around 1910, when he changed back to primarily raising cattle.[48]

Ida in 1900

The 1900 U.S. census found the W. D. Reams in Dingle. *W.D. Ream family, farmer and stockman.* Eight kids were listed, ages six months through 13. All kids six and older were at school. William Crockett, Nora's younger brother lived two houses away with his family.

Will was in the news again in October. The Examiner reported: *Over in Bloomington Canyon Messrs. Ream, Oakey, and others are opening up a big lead that shows gold values and they have arranged to develop it with a shaft. Work is going on now. The lead was known 20 years ago, but only within the last few days has any attention been paid to it.*

On December 7th, W. D. Ream was listed as Justice of the Peace for Dingle Precinct in the Examiner.

[48] L.G. Connor, *A Brief History of the Sheep Industry in the United States, Agricultural History Society Papers,* Vol. 1 (1921), pp. 89, 91, 93-165, 167-197.

I have little to write about the year 1901. Evidently it was a year when the family was together, for there was not a single letter saved. Will and Nora's ninth child, Milton Parke Ream was born September 16, 1901 in the Dingle cabin.

Nora's brother David married Sarah Agnes Maughan on December 18th. When his first wife Emma Crockett died she had left him with ten children, all but one of whom were still at home. His new wife was a widow with six unmarried children of which four were under 20 years old.

On April 18, 1902 Will was in the news again, this time for another legal battle. It was not with Frank Larsen, who had long ago left the scene. It was a dispute between cattlemen and sheep men, and Will was now primarily a sheep farmer. He had switched sides since 1896. Here is the article.

Montpelier Examiner, April 18

The Fur Will Fly.

Suits were begun yesterday morning before Judge Kelly that promise, before ended, to settle several points concerning the two-mile limit law now on the statute book. The title of the cases before the justice are "State of Idaho vs. W. D. Ream and Albert Humberg" and State of Idaho vs. Bert Conley. In both cases the offense alleged is the coming within two miles of an inhabited dwelling with a band of sheep. The violation is said to have taken place near Wardboro....It is said the sheep owners in this section generally will line up in defense of Messrs. Ream, Humberg, and Conley, while the ranchmen and cattle owners will stand by the state. Thus with the issue clearly drawn, the battle will be a royal one and will be fought to a finish.

I have no information about the eventual outcome of that case, but I can guess. If Bear Lake County is anything like Sanpete County, Utah where I live, a sheep right of way trumps everything else.

On July 9, 1902 Nora's father Alvin Crockett died suddenly and unexpectedly at his home after complaining of a stomach cramp. I suspect the problem was a myocardial infarction, a heart attack. He was 70.

Alvin Crockett

That fall Wesley was in his first year of high school in Logan at the age of 16. He was staying with his Uncle Hyrum Crockett, studying until June. Hyrum (Hite) and Susanna had two little girls ages one and three. Two decades later, Hite was living in Salt Lake City and served as host to Milton and Rodney during their studies at the University of Utah.

1903 was the year when the first telephones were introduced to Dingle. It was also the year in which the construction began on Nora and Will's dream home, the so-called Ream

Mansion or Arcadia as they referred to it.[49] I've always wondered how Will, after so much financial hardship, ever got enough money together to build that beautiful and amazing house. Now I think I know the answer. It was that turn of the century boom in the western sheep industry.

I did a little figuring. Let's assume that Wesley's report of "several thousand" meant that Will kept 3,000 sheep. Today the average sheep in the U.S. yields about 7.3 lbs. of wool per year. In 1900 the average price paid for medium grade wool was 32.3 cents per pound, so Will could have grossed $7,074 each year for wool, a very impressive sum in those days. We know that his shearers averaged 50 sheep sheared per day. If he was paying them $1 per day, his total cost for shearers would be only $80. Of course, there would have been shipping costs and other overhead expenses, but during those boom years it seems likely that Will could have been doing pretty well financially, probably well enough to finance his dream house.[50] I know that many turn-of-the-century sheep men in Sanpete County, Utah, where I live, built mansions themselves during that time. But back to the story.

Milton, Kenneth, Rodney

On June 22nd, Kenneth Durward Ream was born in Dingle. He was the 10th and final child of Nora and Will, and every one of those kids lived to adulthood, truly a remarkable feat for that time. There were eight boys and two girls.

In September Will took 17 year old Wesley with him to St. Louis to the fair after they and six other men had delivered about 16 carloads of lambs to the stockyards in Omaha. Wesley rode a 200 foot Ferris wheel, saved a girl from a runaway buggy, and spent the entire $25 he earned before getting home.

As soon as they returned, Wesley went once again to Logan for school, but not with the other boys, only the two girls--ten year old Ida and Beulah, who would turn seven in January. The boys were needed to help build the new house. Nora wrote to him on October 2nd, *I got your letter about changing rooms, but...Papa does not think he can spare the boys to go this year at all. I wish they could go, for it would not cost much more now that the house is rented. Fabian especially feels bad....Papa can get along without hired help if the boys do not go to school...and he cannot afford to hire....They have about two courses of rock around the building above the water table. They have the door frames set. I am anxious to see it all up....Finish your education before you begin to think of the girls....If Ida is running around, Papa will bring her back when he comes.*

[49] I wonder if Arcadia was a reference to Maine, where the Crocketts came from. The name Arcadia was given to a place close to Vinalhaven by Verrazano on a 16th century map, derived from the Greek Arcadia meaning refuge, idyllic place, abundance.

[50] Rodney Ream's daughter Joan Bunderson, who restored the house, says that the original house cost $6,500 to build.

On October 12th, Nora wrote to the girls, *I want to...get some cloth for you Beulah, a warmer dress, and you Ida, a warm waist, and if I can I will make them so your Uncle Jim can take them. How many times have you been to Sunday school down there?* Jim Ream had a job painting in Logan, and evidently made trips back and forth from Bear Lake.

Nora updated Wesley on the house on October 29th—they were putting it on hold. *I suppose Uncle Jim has told you all the news, how they have laid the house by till next year....Papa and the boys have been daubing and re-shingling this house (putting dirt on top)....Papa will go east with the cattle in about a week.* That allowed 12 year old Fabian to join Wesley in Logan.

Nancy Murphin Ream

Here's how Wesley recalled that time in his autobiography. *That year Fabian, my sister Ida and I went to Logan. Grandmother Ream went to cook for us. Uncle James Ream,* Will's little brother from Iowa, *went to work as a painter....We got three rooms with a family by the name of Petersen. It was about six or eight blocks south of the A.C. Fabian, Ida and I slept in one room. Grandmother and Uncle James had one room....Fabian and Ida went to the Woodruff to school. After five or six months Grandmother and James left and took Ida home. Fabian and I then cooked for ourselves. Things went along fine.*

Beulah remembered that year. She wrote, *I knew Dad's mother....She came out (from Iowa) and lived one year in Logan and I went one year to school in Logan when I was in about the second grade. And the big boys were living with someone else, Mother's people.*

They all came home for Christmas, but in January they were back in Logan. Nora wrote to Wesley from Dingle on January 24th*...Grandma and Jim are here yet. Zelma stayed nearly two weeks, then we took her home and stayed three days*. Zelma Matheson was a former student of Nora's from Ovid, who had been in Logan with the Ream boys. *Papa expects to commence hauling rock in the morning.* Will could only transport the rock for the mansion from Pine Springs in the winter, when the ground and river were frozen.

Wesley and Fabian wrote to the family regularly from school in Logan. Here's an example of one from February 2, 1904 by Fabian. Many details about school. Then, *what does Uncle Jim do now and when is Grandma going? Are you considered among the old folks there now? Have they got much rock hauled now? I was down to Uncle Hy yesterday for a few hours.* I don't know when Grandma Nancy Ream went back to Iowa, but she must have spent at least four months in Idaho. The boys came home and worked on the house and the farm that summer. There were no more letters at all that year.

It was reported in October in the Paris newspaper that Mrs. W. D. Ream of Dingle was nominated for County Treasurer but lost to Robert Shepherd of Paris 41 to 16.

Sampson Mitchell Ream

On January 25, 1905, Sampson Mitchell Ream died in his home in Benton Township after experiencing failing health for several months and about five weeks after surgery for gall stones. From his obituary: *Died from liver trouble at his home in Benton Township on Wednesday....On December 15th he underwent a surgical operation for gallstones, and it was thought at one time that he might recover, but complications set in and all that science and medical skill could do proved fruitless and his death was quiet and peaceful. When he realized that he could not get well he said, it was God's will and he was ready to go. He dug the first grave in the Chariton cemetery where he was laid to rest.*

The 1905 Iowa state census shows Sampson with Nancy and his two youngest children, Durward, and Elda. It must have been recorded as of the first of the year. John Paul and Anna lived next door with their kids, ages 1, 6, 7, and 14. Some distance away in Benton Township lived Mitchell C. and Emma with their son Miller, age 5.

Ream Mansion around 1905

That year the mansion was completed and the family moved in. It must have been a great relief to finally expand those twelve people into spacious quarters. There were 13 rooms and three attics with gaslights in all the main rooms, steam radiators to keep warm, a library filled with Will and Nora's books, a study parlor where Will had his big roll top desk, a butler's pantry, seven bedrooms and space for all of the family to sleep. They planted shade trees and lilacs, grass and flowers. It was the home of their dreams.

The fall of 1905 Nora took Mitchel, Lee, and Wesley to Logan to school. Wesley was now over six feet tall and got a lot more respect from his classmates, though he wrote that he had trouble with his English class. He was now attending the agricultural college. In the fall of 1906 Wesley was at the college again in Logan. It appears that Fabian, Ida, Rodney, Milton, and Kenneth were at all home in Dingle that fall, for he addressed them all there in a letter that November. Most of Wesley's letters that year did not go to his family; they were addressed to Mamie Sirrine. He was now 20 years old and making his own life.

Willie and "Stella" Crocket lived in Dingle at least through August 14, 1906 when their 7th child Frank Henry was born. By 1910 Willie was a grocer living in Montpelier.

April 9, 1907 Nora's sister Mary wrote to Nora from Preston, where she had been teaching school. *My dear sister Nora, I should have written sooner, but it nearly kills me to write. I have so much pain, then I have been too miserable other ways. I am glad you were pleased with your shawl. It took 24 skeins. I used to get it at 8 ½ per skein by taking several bunches*

but there has been a big raise the last year it is now 10 cents and none off. I am now doing one for Lydia, she sent money for the yarn. I almost fear it will be the last one I ever try to do as it hurts me so badly.

It was not the last letter that she would write. She wrote one more on August 20th, even more tragic than the previous one. Mary, who had suffered from rheumatoid arthritis, confessed that she had become addicted to laudanum. At the time of the letter she had completed her withdrawal from the opioid on the advice of her physician, but was completely bed ridden from her arthritis with no money and no place to go, asking what it would cost to be given a room in their new house. Will and Nora took her into their home where she lived until her death on April 15th 1908. A room on the east of the second floor is still known as Aunt Mary's room. Her divorced daughter Mamie Smith Larson and Mamie's baby Theone moved to Dingle at the same time, though they evidently lodged elsewhere. Mamie Larson became principal of the Dingle school and as you will see, played a role in the next chapter of this story.

On August 9, 1907 the Montpelier Examiner announced: *The Ream Crockett Irrigation Company of Dingle was organized this week with a capital stock of $2000, all of which has been subscribed excepting $70. The par value of the stock is $1 per share. The officers are A. Oakey, president, W. D. Ream secretary, Hyrum Oakey treasurer. These men with G. E. Sirrine, Nora Ream and David Follick constitute the board of directors.*

In 1907 the state of Wyoming began making restrictions on the use of its lands for winter grazing of sheep from Utah and Idaho. I wonder whether that began to adversely affect Will's sheep operations, especially in light of the U.S. Forest Preserve act of 1906, which instituted fees for grazing on public owned land. I do not know exactly when it happened, but the market in sheep shifted adversely for Will. In Beulah Ream Allen's memoir, she said, *Dad was a rancher. He was in the sheep business and went broke on that, so he'd never eat mutton. He'd show them.*

On September 11, 1907 Will's baby brother Durward was married in Benton Township to Daisy Belle Myers.

That September, Wesley and Fabian enrolled at the University of Idaho in Moscow. They worked their way through school with minimal financial support from their parents, starting with a janitor job at $10 per month. They split wood and pulled weeds. Later that fall they pitched hay into a bailer for $2.50 and dinner, and signed up to clean the music rooms at the college. They had no money for travel, so they stayed in Moscow over the holidays.

In January 1908 Wesley wrote that he had an awful cold, but was passing in every class but German. He said he would go down kicking.

On February 7, 1908 on the Bear Lake County court docket was a case called Wm. Quayle vs. W. D. Ream. I do not know the nature of this contest, nor the result. On January 22, 1909 this case went to the Idaho Supreme Court on appeal, reversing the decision of the

lower court, requiring re-trial. Court cases had become a major theme in Will's life. He could never condone what he perceived as an injustice.

Rodney, Milton, Kenneth

Kenneth sent a postcard to Wesley on March 5th, crowing that he was already in the second reader and ahead of Milton and Rodney. Kenneth was not yet five.

Nora's sister Mary passed away in her room in Arcadia on April 15, 1908. Their sister Lydia in Arizona wrote in concern. *Did she die easy at the last? It seems so hard to think after all the years she suffered so that she had to suffer so much after having the stroke.*

Fabian, Ida, Mitchel, Wesley, Lee, Rodney (in shadow) around 1908

Wesley and Fabian were back to work on the farm in the summer. They went back to Moscow the next fall, taking Mitchel with them. Wesley and Mitchel got a job over the Christmas holidays sawing ice blocks in Moscow. Perhaps they were in the cold too much. On January 17, 1909 Wesley wrote *Mitchel...took down with inflammatory rheumatism....He is in bed now for over a week and has been unable to turn,* keeping Wesley awake with his groans and turning him. As soon as Mitchel was able to travel, he left for home and never returned to school in Moscow. In February, Fabian went home as well for lack of money.

Nora wrote to Wesley on February 16th. *Fabian got home all right. Of course I was glad to see him, but I felt disappointment also for I was anxious for him to finish up his school year. I was so sorry that Mitchel was sick and could not finish the school year. I would do <u>anything</u> that is honest to give you boys (and girls too) a good education that you may stand a better chance in the world...We miss you more now the others are home. I hope you can keep on till the end of the year. When you run short of money, go right ahead and draw your checks for what you need and we will take care of it at this end. We will be having some money come in*

on feeding the sheep....I think Papa will try and get away and do some canvassing. Still I hardly see how he can.

It was noted in the newspaper on March 12, 1909 that W.D. Ream's petition to the county commission for a herd district in the southeast corner of Bear Lake County was tabled for reason that the petitioner had not complied with the law in the matter.

Nora wrote to Wesley again on March 17th. *Glad to hear of your military promotion.* She reviewed each of his grades. *They are all right. If you do anything on the track do not overdo yourself. If I were you and went to a dance, I would get in and dance....You would easily catch on after a few efforts.* She talked about all the town getting smallpox, and how it hits everyone in a family. *Papa says if any of us get it he will fire Watson out of the old house and use that to nurse the sick ones in....The geese have started to lay.*

Wesley had to subsist on bread and hot dogs for a while and find a cheaper place to live, but he hung on for the rest of the school year.

It was announced on April 30, 1909 that Nora had been elected trustee of the school board.

On May 24th, twelve year old Douglas wrote to Wesley from Dingle: *How are you getting along in school and foot racing? Are you going to the World's Fair? The coyotes got the broken winged goose and the bone was broken in two places.* Wesley did go to Seattle June 10-18 for a paid YMCA conference, but was home by the end of the month. After three hard months on the ranch, Wesley was on the train back to Moscow by the end of September. He wrote, *got to Montpelier just in time to catch the train, never had time to go to the bank for money or checkbook, so left with a ticket and five dollars...arrived sick after being stuck in a smoker car...found a room, got registered....Will have to study like "Sam Hill."* He had signed up for 20 hours credit.

Lee was enrolled in college in Pocatello. He wrote that *everybody wanted me in football, but I haven't played yet. The team is playing this year's second game today.* Ida, though only 16, was also enrolled at Idaho State. Kenneth was playing football.

Will's mother, Nancy Elizabeth Murphin Ream died in Chariton on October 7, 1909 of dropsy and heart trouble. Her funeral was held at the home of her son, John Paul Ream. She was 69 years old. I do not think Will went to Iowa in time for her funeral. He wrote to Nora from Laramie at a stockyard on November 10th and from Grand Island, Nebraska on November 12th. Perhaps he went the rest of the way to Iowa then. There was an estate to settle.

By November 3rd, Lee was playing football on the first team. He was 6' 3" and 180 pounds.

Nora wrote to Wesley on November 21, 1909. Much of the letter had been chewed away by mice by the time it came into my hands. *I wish you were going to be here for Thanksgiving....Papa---got back Thursday.* I think he had been in Chariton. *Brought---(Uncle) Mitchell back with him. I don't know how long he will stay. I think he will buy cattle to take back with him as far as Omaha. Papa says he did not do very well with his cattle....We*

invited Miss Sullivan and Mamie (probably Larsen) to Thanksgiving, but they declined as Mamie had invited guests.

Mitchel was not in school that year, helping Will to deliver coal. However, he was not stuck in Dingle the whole winter. Nora wrote to Wesley on December 3rd, that Mitchel had gone east with Uncle Mitch with two cars of cattle, intending to be home for Christmas. Uncle Mitch was Will's much younger brother by 16 years. Uncle Mitch lived in Chariton and was 33 at the time with a wife and two boys aged seven and eight. Mitchel was 21. Mitchel sent a card to Wesley from Rawlings, Wyoming on December 9th, saying that he planned to stay in Iowa until the 23rd.

That Christmas Wesley was able to come home from school. He spent a lot of that time with Mamie Sirrine. Still, he found time to help his dad deliver coal.

On December 22, 1909 Jim Ream wrote to Will from Jerome, Idaho, where he was living with their 24 year old sister, Elda. He had some real estate opportunities that required cash. He was asking for his $400 share of the inheritance from their parents and urging Bill (Will) to come up and make some money, too.[51]

After Christmas the older Ream kids scattered again to their various schools.

This letter came from Nora to Wesley in Moscow in early January, 1910. *Papa's arm is not well yet. He cannot use it much and it hurts him a great deal. He is always getting it hurt. It was reported last week that I had dropped dead. It was all over the county. We were kept busy Sat. answering inquiries over the phone from Paris and Montpelier as to time of funeral....It gave me the shudders. Sandy went back to Sirrines. The workmen now board on the dredge. Tucker is still here.* I think Tucker was a school teacher who boarded with them.

On February 7th there was an explosion associated with the dredge that killed two popular young men in Dingle named Lester Nowland and Sandy Lopez, which shook up the whole community. Thirteen year old Beulah wrote Wesley an awe-stricken letter describing every detail. Ten year old Rodney wrote to Wesley on February 13, 1910. *We had a picnic. I got a pirty valentine.*

That spring there was unusual flooding. Nora wrote to Wesley on March 10th that *the mail could not go from here today on account of high water. Nowland started but had to come back. The river bridge by the station has gone down stream. The bridge going to Montpelier is under water and about gone. Will Quayle's Lucerne stack by the old hall is*

Dingle flood with Maida Oakey and George Sparks

[51] Letter is transcribed on page 239.

two feet deep in water. She named many more bridges that were out including one of theirs. *I am worried for fear Fabian might start down tomorrow night not knowing the bridges are gone. Then too, Papa went to Denver and I shall be worried till he gets back on account of washouts. I got your grades and standing from school the other night. I think you have done real well.*

It was flooding in Moscow as well, wrecking towns and trains. Wesley helped break up an ice jam at a bridge.

Then Nora wrote again on March 27, 1910. *If you don't get a civil engineering job this summer you should come home and help. The high water is getting better. It sent the Dingle Bridge downstream.* Sounded like they needed a civil engineer. *There is no sale for hay—it all remains in the stacks. We're still branding cattle. Papa* (Will) *wants me to go to SLC for conference with him. I don't know how I can possibly go, but I'll try and trust for good luck for everything here at home. Papa says to give Nunn your school or president for reference. Papa says also to write to the Chief Engineer of the Oregon Short Line, Pocatello, Idaho. But don't take any job that prevents you from completing your course after the summer.*

Lee wrote to Nora from Pocatello. The bridge was knocked out there by high water. Ida had been quarantined for scarlet fever. He was on the debate team and *put it over* on Fielding Academy a week ago.

Wesley was still scrambling for money in Moscow. *What do you think, I am the town "bill poster." I spent three hours at it this afternoon and put up 144 sheets, for which I got two dollars and forty cents...also I milk two cows and feed them bran. At noon and at night I wash dishes and milk again.*

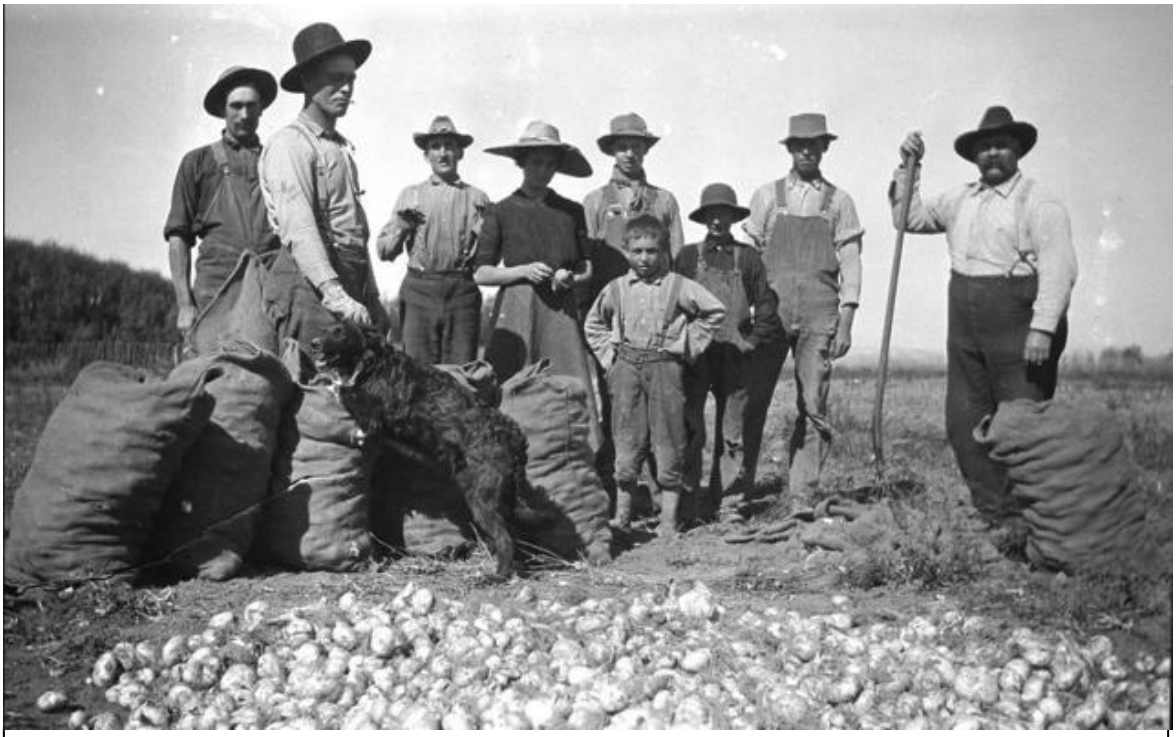
Beulah wrote to Wesley again on April 3rd, another much damaged letter. *Momma and Papa have gone to Salt Lake....Mr. Tucker and I are the only ones here. The reason Mr. Tucker is here is because he went to the dance in Montpelier and did not get back until a while ago. It is now half past twelve. Mr. Tucker and Mamie* (Larsen, the school teacher) *cannot get along....Mitchel and Miss Sullivan have---he had taken her buggy riding the other day and then last night took her over to Paris and then to top it off with got a little "note" from her that is about as bad as you and yours.*

By April 17th Ida was out of quarantine. She wrote to Wesley: *The scarlet fever is all right now…we were quarantined three weeks. It was very light and I'm still not sure that it was (scarlet fever.) The child just had a tooth rash, but that did not let me out any sooner. I'd like to stay with a private family for the rest of school. Mama and Papa were here two weeks ago—they had been to Salt Lake Conference.* Why does it amaze me that Will went to general conference? And without Sophia Crockett to nag him.

The U.S. Census in the year 1910 was carried out on May 18th in Dingle. At the top of the page was the name of the census taker: William D. Ream. Our resourceful grandfather, the onetime professional canvasser, had contracted to undertake the census for Dingle and Wardboro. He listed himself as head of a family of 12 with two boarders. One was a

teacher from North Carolina named Quincy C. Tucker. The other was a hired man named Robert L. Williams, also from North Carolina. That was the only year that Will worked that job; he turned it over for the 1920 census to his son Douglas.

Wesley was looking for a surveying job for the summer. To Nora he wrote on May 18th. *Wrote to reclamation service in Boise for a job. Papa might enquire of Telluride. Write him.* Telluride was planning to do a huge water and power project in Bear Lake. Wesley got a good job with them.



Lee, Mitchel, Fabian, Ida, Douglas, Kenneth, Rodney, hired man, Will

Will was in the papers again on June 13th. Paris Post*: Secretary W. D. Ream of the Farmers' Union was in Paris Saturday and states that he will soon order a carload of twine and rope. Members of the union desiring these commodities should send their orders to Mr. Ream at once.* And so was Nora. Montpelier Examiner, August 26: *Sam Athay of Paris and Mrs. Nora Ream of Dingle are the candidates for treasurer. Mr. Athay has served as deputy sheriff, and Mrs. Ream has filled the office of school trustee in the Dingle district. She is the only lady candidate on either ticket in Bear Lake County this year.* On September 9th it was announced that she lost by a vote of 172 to 208.

In September, Wesley returned to his final year in Moscow. Fabian went as well. Mitchel, Ida, and Lee went back to Pocatello.

A letter from Nora followed Wesley to school. She wrote on September 29th. *Hope you can graduate this year. Three days after you left I was called to Logan on account of Aunt Susie's*

Susie Facer Crockett

death. She had a stroke of paralysis like she did the other time. Susie Facer Crockett was Hite's first wife, who died at the age of 31 after a stroke from chronic endocarditis....*We have not got the Telluride check yet, but I suppose it will come all right. Mamie was up day before yesterday and took the picture of the geese as the other one was not good. Lind expects to go back to N. C. soon for his wife.*

In October Wesley informed the family that he had achieved some notoriety for his physical strength, which was published in several Idaho newspapers, who called him the strongest man in the west. He explained it in a letter to Mamie. *The physical director is testing the strength of all male students....I tested 2,925 pounds more than the average man and nearly a thousand pounds more than the best student tested here.* He got a lot of attention including from the *Pres.* Over 8,000 students had been tested around the country. Males averaged 4,124 lbs. Wesley tested 7,070 lbs. Second place L.F. Hunter made 6,390. Wesley also lettered in track (100 yard dash, quarter and half mile, high jump, weights, shot put, hammer, and rifle team.)

Will wrote to Wesley on October 9, 1910, one of very few letters from him during this period. *You're right, I'll get the matter with Jobson settled up before long. We got our thrashing done. The St. Charles machine did the job and we only had them for 6 meals. We have a car of coal at the station which we will unload in the morning and fill with oats. Link will start for home in a day or two. He has done fine since you boys left....I am surely glad you will get through this year.*

Ida reacted characteristically to the strong man affair: *I'm glad that you're the strong man and that you will graduate. I got another card from Mamie. I'm going to be a star in every way this year. If you want me to make you a U. of I. pennant, you'll have to send me the material.* Then a week later she had more to say. *Say, I saw it in the paper about your being so strong. The boys here wanted to know if you were my relation. I am developing into a genuine basketball star. I made something like 10 baskets, now that's pretty good. The coach wants me to practice for the team.*

Nora wrote to Wesley on October 30th. The news included a water meeting at their house lasting until two a.m., news of the boarders at the Ream Mansion and of measles and chicken pox in the town. Nora wanted to know where Wesley put the book containing the minutes of the ditch meetings—not having it had caused problems in the water meeting.

She wrote again a week later to Fabian. *How long did you have to batch it? ...Are you up in all your classes? The plows ought to be running but are not since Link went home and Douglas started to school. Do you hear from "Grand Ma?" She has 7 pupils and E. 14. Isn't that easy*

money? It sounds like her mother had gone back to teaching. *I got a letter from Lee and Mitchel the other night. They seem to be...all right.*

Ida wrote on December 11th from Pocatello. *Did you get your pennants? I don't suppose you are coming home for Xmas....I may make the school basketball team this year.*

Mr. Tucker, the Reams' boarder and schoolteacher sent this letter to Wesley in Moscow, asking a favor of him. *Would you please express my suitcase to Bremerton C.O.D.? I am on duty at pest house now and can't go to town to get check or PO order. Guess I'll be here during Xmas and New Year's if more patients comes up. Only one case now. Have time alone for reading. Best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Ream and all. Has Link gone east again?*

Wesley and Fabian were still hustling jobs. From Wesley: *I've taken on my old job of bill posting. I think I can make 1-2 dollars per hour with it.* Fabian had a job carrying papers. They both stayed in Moscow again for Christmas. Ida and Mitchel came home. When they returned to Pocatello in January, there were 500 more cases of smallpox and scarlet fever. The administrators were thinking of closing the Academy.

Nora wrote to both Moscow students on New Year's Day, 1911. To Wesley she wrote that she had been very busy sewing outfits for all the kids. *Papa has not sold his cattle yet (or) any hay...Papa intends to go to Boise in a few days to see what he can do about the...loan. Tomorrow is the last day for paying the taxes...about $180. Link,* their hired man, *wants to come out and bring his sister and her husband and family to live on the Peterson place.*

To Fabian, Nora wrote this. *I did not get to send you boys anything (for Christmas) this year...We did not celebrate this Xmas. No tree or anything. Papa is bothered so bad with rheumatism this winter, more than usual. I did not get to have "Tuck's" letter forwarded...Miss Sullivan was here to stay overnight Friday. She had been at Mamie's for a week during vacation.* Finances were tough that year.

Will wrote to them on January 11th. *Have not sold anything yet but the eight pigs and the turkeys and geese. I did not make settlement with the Telluride Co. It is 22 below but the sun is shining. The kids go back to school this morning.*

But the boys in Moscow got great news from Will on January 16, 1911 typed on Farmer's Union letterhead, W.D. Ream Secretary. *Sold 67 head of cattle for good price. I banked the money for you and Fabian—I'll send you a signed note so you can withdraw it.* They would be able to finish out the year.

Then on January 22, Will wrote to Wesley again. *I have just written a fellow in N.C. to take the place of R.L.W.* (Link.) It was Link's brother-in-law. *I am beginning to get ready to handle a large crop this year.* Will was planning to devote 8 acres to onions. *The man that is ready with the goods is the man that will win and you want to be there with the goods. Pigs, sheep, turkeys, chickens, geese, and everything else is looking well.*

Will wrote again on January 28th. *Mama and I start for Boise in the morning and will stop off at Pocatello and see the kids. Well, about the stone quarry, remember that the stone claim is*

only 20 acres and your mama has a filing of 160 which has not been allowed and you will have to be governed accordingly. I think that you and Mitchel can take up 360 acres and a little later Lee can do the same and then this way we can cover all of the good land and stone ground and have it our way. Now if this Mr. Daws will put up the money (say $1,000) to start the business...I think it will be a good deal and you can manage the business.

There was more for Will to say about the quarry business. Evidently Wesley had asked Will about the prospects of working with quarry when he got out of school. Will added on February 27th the following. *I am willing to turn the whole (quarry) over to you and you can do as you like about it but I think the better way for you to do is to get a job in your profession for a while as you will be fresh from school. You can see that when you are in the world and mixing with it you can get information regarding the business while the other fellow is paying you. Now as your friend does not want to advance any money it would be necessary for you to go to all of the expense to demonstrate, which will take some ready money. There is no question as to the quality of the stone and a demand for it. I will make all of the enquiries you wish and send them to you and you can arrange the matter to suit yourself.*

Nora wrote the same day. *Papa expects Link's brother in law in about two weeks to start work. I hope he proves a good worker and decent fellow. I think your markings were very good.* Like Will, she thought Wesley should try to get work immediately in his line of study so he wouldn't get rusty. *However Papa says do as you think best.*

In March Will wrote: *The two boys from N.C. are here and I think they will make very good hands.* He gave details on freight on stone to Salt Lake and Pocatello. I don't think the quarry deal ever materialized.

Wesley was preparing for graduation. He wrote on March 5th to Mamie: *My old suit is getting so faded that I am almost ashamed....I am going to get a blue serge and a derby and see how swell I can look the last two or three months of my college life.* He was waiting for spring to make the purchase. *When I got up to the college they had made a mistake in my time and were going to pay me double, but of course I would not stand for that and it took me some time to get it straightened out. Fabian has a chance to go to West Point next spring so he has changed his course and is preparing for the exams in May.*

Fabian about 1910

The Fielding Academy in Paris was inquiring about Wesley's availability to teach the next year, but he was much more interested in applying his civil engineering training. He wrote to Mamie in May: *I think I can get ($90 per month) from Telluride like last summer... (and) am going to write Mr. Shaub.* In June Wesley graduated with honors, which required taking 23.5 hours the last semester. No family member was there to witness the ceremony. There were 31 grads. Wesley went to work for Utah Power and Light Co., which had an office in

Dingle. He worked with Eugene Schaub, a surveyor, to make canals to direct Bear River into Bear Lake and then take it out again.

In July, 1911 Milton's appendix ruptured and he spent the next 11 months in the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City. Beulah wrote, *(Mother) sat by his bedside and pulled him through. He got bedsores til his bones came through his elbows and his hips and knees. Oh, he was sick, but he got out of it.*

That fall Wesley was also in bed for a month with severe *pain in my heart that spread diagonally across my body to my right hip. I nearly died.* He went to the Judge Mercy Hospital in Salt Lake, where he stayed two weeks, afraid to sleep for fear his heart would stop. Nora had to split her time attending to both him and Milton. Wesley wrote that if he would lie still for any length of time his pulse would slow to 10 bpm. The doctors could not tell what was wrong and did nothing but feed him strychnine. He took only half of what they gave, and it made him so nervous he would jump and holler if anyone even pointed a finger at him. After two weeks he left the hospital and went home. He had several recurrences over the next three years.

Will and Kenneth in foreground ca. 1911.
Back row: Milton, Rodney, Mitchel, Ida, Douglas, Fabian.

Since Nora and Will were together most of that decade, few letters between them exist to illuminate their relationship to each other. One interesting fact concerning that time was contributed by their daughter, Beulah. She wrote that Nora had augmented the family income by selling corsets. Nora was an imposing five foot ten, an inch taller than Will, and made a fine figure.

1912 was the year that the Titanic sank and of the attempted assassination of Teddy Roosevelt. There was no mention of either Nora or Will that year in the local newspapers. It was a year of intensifying courtship between Wesley and Mamie, which produced many

letters between them, since Wesley was away from Dingle much of the time in his surveying work. Mitchel was romancing Mabel, but I know this only through mentions by Wesley.

On August 22, 1913 Nora and Beulah went to Lava Hot Springs because of rheumatism in her hip. They went by train and came back Aug 31.

Rodney about age 13

That fall Will sacked 318# of onions, which he sold in Montpelier to Ed. Rich for $6.87.

In a December letter to Mamie, Wesley mentioned that Beulah, Lee, and Fabian had come home for Christmas, so they had probably been away to college that year. But there was not a single letter saved that year by Nora. I can't believe it was because there were no separations among her family members. I think that she simply wasn't saving them or they were lost. Most of the information that I have on the Ream family until the end on 1917 comes from other sources, mainly the letters between Wesley and his fiancé Mamie Sirrine.

Lee around 1912

In January 1913 Wesley was arrested for allegedly stealing a coyote from a trap that had been set by Grant Wilcox. Wesley denied it and refused to pay the fine, so he was dragged before the justice of the peace to plead his own case. The house was packed with curious Dingle-ites. Will told Sarah Oakey that Wesley didn't pay the fine because it was George Sparks and the hired man who stole the coyote and that Grant Wilcox had accused Wesley purely out of spite against the Ream family. The court found Wesley guilty for dubious reasons, even though he proved that he had not done the deed. The J.P. was Hyrum Dayton, Grant Wilcox' uncle, who forced Wesley to pay a stiff $16 fine. Wesley wrote to Mamie, *Dayton pronounced me guilty and stated that it was because I should have stayed with George and not let him take it, for I was older. Then he fined me sixteen dollars and I had worked so hard for it and for my good name then to have him combine with such a thing as Grant to steal my money and my good name as well. I was so angry that I could almost have killed them.* This was just one of many incidents that divided the Reams from most of the Dingle community.

On February 9th Wesley mentioned in a letter to Mamie Sirrine, that his cousin Mamie Smith Larson had been to their home to visit for two days. I believe she had been teaching in Long Beach, California, and I wonder if she was trying to recruit Nora.

On March 10, 1913 Beulah wrote to Fabian from Pocatello where she was studying. Fabian, who had finished college, was teaching school in Herman, Idaho, north of Soda Springs. He was hoping to get a job at the new power plant that was pumping water from Mud Lake into Bear Lake. Wesley had been surveying the Snake River at Idaho Falls but was on his way to the desert west of Tooele, Utah with a surveying crew. Nora wrote to him from Hyrum. She was sending his clothes as he had requested to Salt Lake on the first train, minus the requested green ink, which she was afraid would spoil the clothes. She wrote news on two of their hired men, who had cheated each other. I don't know what she was doing in Hyrum. I wonder if she had gone back to teach school there again.

Beulah around 1913

Nora wrote on March 14th to Wesley in Idaho Falls. *I got a letter from Sears Roebuck about a week ago. They could furnish just what you wanted for $9.46 but on all goods made to order they had to have full pay before they would make it up. I thought not to delay, I just made a check on your account for $5. 46 and fired it right back. Old Sue died the other day—had pneumonia and had to be helped up (I think that was a horse.) Link's outfit came back here to do a little work and he got on a big "drunk."*

On July 26th Fabian wrote to Nora from Albion, near Burley, Idaho. He was by then involved in a school there. That fall Wesley went to Ephraim, Utah to lay out section markers in the mountains on the east side of the valley, working there until winter forced the crew out.

While still in Ephraim Wesley wrote in his journal that he had received a note from Will the he was putting a heating plant in the house. Wesley was back in time for Christmas.

Wesley and Mamie had planned a wedding in April, and then Mamie changed her mind. While he was waiting for her, Wesley surveyed and marked out homesteads in Pine Springs for Mitchel and Lee and found another nice place up there and claimed it for himself, becoming a rancher. He had saved $600 to begin his married life with Mamie, but when the wedding was called off, he lent $450 of it to Will to invest in cattle. Then Mamie changed her mind again, and they were married June 11, 1914 in the Salt Lake Temple along with three other Bear Lake couples. They had only $76 left after paying for the wedding, so they moved into Sarah Sirrine's one room cabin in Dingle while Wesley got a little cabin built on his Pine Springs homestead.

That fall Fabian was teaching school in St. Charles, but after passing a qualifying exam, took off for the Philippines as a teacher. Wesley took Fabian's job, teaching 48 pupils in grades 6-8 for $85 a month through the spring of 1915.

The summer of 1915 Wesley filed on 320 more acres of stock raising homestead. Will gave him 13 heifers to pay a debt, probably the one incurred before Wesley's wedding. Wesley, Lee, and Mitchel ran cattle in the Caribou Basin about 150 miles north of Dingle. They had to take care of both places.

Mitchel about 1916

On March 9, 1916 Fabian wrote to Nora and Will from Bungabang, N.E. in the Philippine Islands. *Threshing rice since middle of February, then machine broke down. This year I had to make my own text. I had to teach them how to manage a farm....I thot of the times you have cussed me out for doing the very things I cussed these boys out for doing.* Fabian was 25 and would not be married until the end of 1925.

On April 11, 1917 Nora wrote to Douglas from Soda Springs, probably to Pocatello where he was in school. *Papa and Amasa Rich up to see me. Jim has got a little work now.* I assume that she was teaching there, once again separated from Will after many years together. I think that farm income had declined and Nora was finding it necessary to work in order to support the education of her children. By then the kids did not need her as much at home. Wesley was the only one who was married, but five others were 20 or older, and mostly educated. Kenneth, Milton, and Rodney, ages 14-17 still had high school and college ahead of them. Beulah was teaching school that year in Lorenzo, Idaho.

That summer Wesley and Lee built a road from Dingle to Pine Springs, which shortened the drive to their homesteads from 14 miles to seven. The war was looming and Nora and Will had four sons of draft age.

Then in 1918 a huge change came into the Ream family. By January 10th Nora was in Long Beach, California, presumably teaching school. She was living on Wisconsin Avenue, and I think that she had the younger children with her. I have long wondered how it was that she ended up in Long Beach, of all possible places. Here's my theory: Nora's niece, Mamie Smith Larson, had been in Long Beach teaching school since around 1910. Mamie had moved to Dingle with her son Theone in 1907, when Nora and Will took in her invalid mother, Aunt Mary, where Mamie worked as a teacher, and later as the principal of the four room Dingle School for three years. Will had taught school there earlier, and so had Nora, and Nora was probably a trustee of the school while Mamie Larson worked there. My guess is that Mamie kept in touch with Nora after she left Dingle, and eventually recruited her to California, where teachers could make a good living. The two women were to remain close until Mamie's untimely death in 1921.

Dingle schoolhouse

LIVING APART AND TOGETHER 1918-1945

Nora Ream about 1918

Nora never lived in Dingle again except during the summers, when she would often return for a break. And Will never really permanently moved to Long Beach, although it is possible that Will lived there part or all of 1918—no letters between them exist for that period. On the other hand, the twelve letters saved from others that year were addressed to them individually, never to both.

It seems clear that with her move to Long Beach, Nora, at the age of 56, was finally able to create the career in teaching for which she had educated herself. She established a permanent residence at 929 Gaviota Street and a circle of friends that included her niece Mamie Smith Larsen, also a career teacher, who lived close by and sometimes boarded with her. Nora's teaching contract in California was certainly much more lucrative than any she had previously experienced. Of course, the positive side of that for me is that the prolonged separation from Will produced over a thousand letters during that time. Well, to be frank, I could have been happy with fewer.

The U.S. entered World War I on April 6, 1917 and had landed its first troops in France by the end of June. By the time Nora arrived in California in January of 1918, Woodrow Wilson was announcing his 14 point plan and the war was in full swing. This activity was certainly stimulating the economy in Southern California. Nora was probably concerned about the military draft. Her sister Delia wrote on January 10th that her sons in Arizona had been drafted. Apparently Nora's son Lee had not yet been drafted. He was living with her in Long Beach according to two letters, which Nora had saved. One was from Beulah, who was teaching school in Lorenzo, Idaho six days a week. She had a contract through May 3, 1918.

Douglas 1918

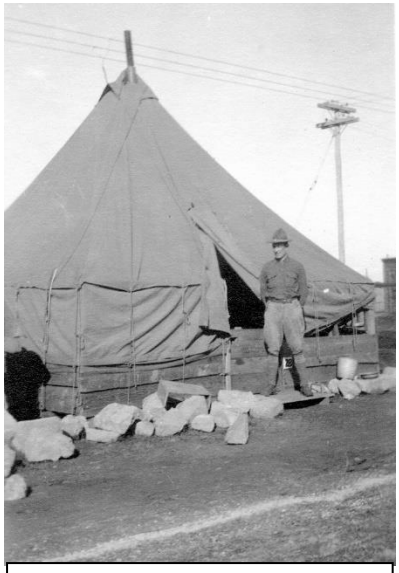
But Lee was soon drafted, and so was Douglas. Both were stationed at Camp Fremont, California before August. Douglas was in the 62nd Infantry. By August 8, 1918 the 100 Days Offensive had begun on the Western Front in Europe.

And there was not just a war, but the great Spanish Influenza epidemic to worry about. On March 4, 1918, the first case was diagnosed in a private named Albert Gitchell at Ft. Riley, Kansas. By March 11th, there were 100 men sick at Fort Riley and the disease was spreading everywhere. By October 13th churches were closed to prevent the spread. There were six deaths from influenza in Salt Lake City on October 16th. So far, Lee and Douglas were well and sending frequent letters to Will and Nora and also to each other.

On Nora and Will's 33rd wedding anniversary November 11th the Armistice was signed. The war in Europe would wind down now, but not the flu.

In December, Wesley caught influenza on a train to Cedar City, Utah, where he had found a job as engineer in a coal mine in the nearby mountains. He had been given a mask to wear on the train but had removed it when it made his nose bleed. There were 88 new cases occurring per day in Salt Lake City. Wesley was hospitalized in a makeshift hospital converted from a college building in Cedar City with a fever of 105°, along with several of his work crew. A handful of patients there died, but he was back to work in ten days.

That December, Lee was writing to Nora from Camp Fremont and Fabian wrote from Central Luzon Agricultural School in the Philippines, where he was teaching. By January Lee had been released. Wesley wrote to his wife Mamie on January 3, 1919 from Cedar City: *Got your letter that said Lee was home. How are Lee and Ella getting along? Did you ever find out why she was so angry and burned that letter? Dad is fixing my taxes. Tell him to apply the money for the cow and deposit the rest.* Lee's girlfriend, Ella Oakey, was Mamie Ream's cousin.



Lee at Camp Fremont

Douglas had not been released from the army yet and had been transferred. He wrote on January 14th to Lee from Petersburg, Virginia.

Shortly after returning to Dingle, Lee fell ill after having received surgery in the military for a hernia and had to be transported to the hospital in Ogden, where according to his death certificate, he died of influenza pneumonia. Here is how Wesley's wife Mamie remembered the story.

Arcadia in 1918

Lee became ill (while in the military) and was sent home for treatment. He had a rupture and he had been neglected. He was home for a while. He seemed to be getting worse. They decided to take him to Ogden for treatment. On the way to Ogden they stopped at Oakeys' for Ella to come out to see him, but she was ill in bed and did not go out to see him. They rushed on and I think were hurt that Ella would not go out to see Lee. Lee did not live long. He died in an Ogden hospital. They soon brought Lee's body home. I was there most of the time. Ida and I were standing looking at him. He looked

fine. She said that Lee had been the favored one of the family. I was there when Ella came to see Lee. She stood by me with tears in her eyes. She said, "I wish I could crawl in the casket and go with him."

When Wesley heard that Lee had died, he left the mine near Cedar City and met his father and mother in Ogden. Evidently Nora had rushed up from Long Beach. They took Lee's body to Dingle for a funeral in the Ream mansion.

That year Beulah was in Chicago for nursing school. In March she made a visit to her Ream cousins in Iowa, where she also met Mabel Clark, who would later marry Beulah's brother Mitchel in Des Moines on September 21, 1918.

The next day, President Woodrow Wilson was in Salt Lake City on his whirlwind campaign to garner support for his proposed League of Nations. Mamie's mother Sarah Sirrine was there to give an eyewitness account. The streets were lined with people from the train depot all way down to State and Main. Sarah saw it all from the Brigham Young monument. There was a parade with soldiers and boy scouts, mounted police, and thousands of children carrying flags. Sarah went afterward to hear Wilson speak, but the crowd was so big they didn't get in until nearly the end, but she heard it all. The crowd was dreadful... *Lots of women fainted and had to be carried out and one man died in the crowd and lots got hurt....I was close by the wall and the mob went past me.*

The U. S. Census was gathered in Dingle on January 2-5, 1920 by one Douglas Ream, who was then 24 years old. He listed himself as a general farm manager, which suggests that Will had stepped back from the lead of the ranch at age 60. Douglas was, of course, living with Will in the mansion. The only other Ream child in Bear Lake at the time was Fabian, who had returned temporarily from the Philippines. Fabian was 28 and listed his profession as a salesman of farm implements. Wesley and Mamie were living in Sarah Sirrine's cabin in Dingle with their two boys, Jean and Lane, ages five and three. Jim Ream, Will's brother, was living in Montpelier, working as a house painter.

Nora about 1920

In Long Beach the census was taken on January 13th. Except for Beulah, who was in Chicago, all the rest of the family was there with Nora including Mitchel's new wife, Mabel. Ida was listed as 26 years old and single. No occupation was given for anyone, but I believe that she was teaching school. At some point she gave that up to speculate on real estate. Rodney was 19, Milton was 18, and Kenneth was 16. I believe all three of them were attending high school there. They were all living at 927 Gaviota Avenue, next door to Roy and Fannie Grundy, who were close friends to Nora and Ida.

On March 18, 1920 Will wrote to Nora from Dingle. *Have been in my office all day (the kitchen) trying to arrange some kind of terms for tomorrow to see if the natives can get together.* If he was trying to get his family together, that could have meant Wesley's family,

Douglas, Fabian, and possibly Jim. Mitchel and Mabel were due about that time to be back from California. Mitchel would be a welcome addition to the farming staff. Will was not going to California. No money, not enough time. *I do not look for anything doing in court until June. I can't see how I can change matters....This has been my lot all thru life....Had hoped to have been in LHS (Lava Hot Springs) all this month, but just held here day by day expecting court....W.W. and Mamie's baby is sure a fine one. I believe it will look like W.W.* Will was speaking of Helen Mae, Wesley's first girl, who had been born three days earlier. Will was tied up in court again, and it would not be resolved anytime soon.

Except for a letter from Nora to Wesley and Mamie congratulating them on their baby girl, there were no further letters until September 9th from Will to Nora in Long Beach. I think that is because Nora and all the kids (except possibly Ida) had come to Dingle for the summer, and then Nora went back to start the next school year. That month she received letters from Beulah in Chicago, her sisters Delia and Lydia in Arizona, and Kenneth, who had enrolled in college in Pocatello. Roxie wrote to her from Logan.

With the boys around to run the ranch and most of the crops in, Will got away to the spa in Lava Hot Springs in October. He had been there at least 10 days, when he got a big surprise on October 29th. He wrote to Nora that two of his sisters had shown up unexpectedly. *Maud is here and will go down with me in a day or so. She and Elda are both here....I knew nothing about it till they stepped in the door and they did not know I was here. Will. H. Young told Elda about meeting you and me here. Maud had been in Burley since July and will stay till next June and have the boys in school there. Well the springs are doing me lots of good but it takes them longer each time I come back to get me started. I want to put in more time as soon as I quit the ranch and before coming down. If I don't get better here this fall I think my case pretty tough.* It turned out to be pretty tough.

Will headed back to Dingle the first part of November, taking Maud with him and swinging by Pocatello to visit Kenneth. Will wanted Nora to look out for his brother Jim, who was headed for California. *Just returned from Pocatello...looking after taxes etc. Saw Kenneth and he is looking fine...likes it better than Long Beach. Maud came home with me from LHS* (Lava Hot Springs) *and stopped 4 days....If I get thru court this week I may go down there by the first of next month....Jim leaves tomorrow for Cal. He said he did not know where...but you can look for him down there before many days....Remember that all is OK before Doug and Fabian get there. They are counting on leaving round the 15ish. Help him to find a place and get him located. From what I have learned he lost some money on election bets. Sold his shack for $150 and W.W.* (Wesley) *paid him so he ought to have plenty. He seems to have got some liquor the day he came out here...the day Maud left but after she had gone, so did not see her. From what Mitchel says he told all his troubles and tears run down his face. Conditions the same as when he and (Doug) clashed. He did not think he would get a round trip ticket. I am thinking he lost some money on bets and is some short. Treat him well and get him located before the boys get there or they will not stop. Also see that (Mitchel) is not causing any waiting on. You see our time has passed for giving attention to conditions as in times*

past....Have had good results at the springs. Am going to Burley a few days on my way down. Am not sure when I will get there.

Beulah in 1922

Beulah was writing Nora regularly from nursing school in Chicago. She wrote on November 8, 1920 that she had the dress she "stole" from Ida revamped for her.

The next day Nora got some bad news from her brother Hyrum "Hite" Enos Crockett. Leah, the daughter of their sister Roxie, had just died of blood poisoning after contracting typhoid fever and *the family is taking it very hard.* The death certificate said she died of puerperal sepsis (post-partum infection). She was a 19 year old single college student—I wonder if this was a botched abortion that no one was talking about. And there was some good news, too. *Your humble brother HEC was made Secretary of State....Remember us to Mamie and Theone if they are still with you.* Hite would be moving to Salt Lake City, where he was to be an anchor to his many nieces and nephews for years.

I am unable to locate Mamie and Theone Larsen in the 1920 census. From Hite's letter is seems clear that they were living in Long Beach that year, possibly even boarding with Nora, whose own children had mostly left the previous summer. In any case, the house on Gaviota Avenue was to be a busy place with Jim, Doug, and Fabian coming by.

On November 23rd Will wrote that there had been a farewell party at the mansion for Fabian and Douglas. They would be joining Milton and Rodney, who were finishing high school in Long Beach. Beulah wrote that she hoped Milton was still planning on medical school.

On November 29th Will apologized, sort of. *Missed your birthday....Court sets the 24 of January. Don't know about coming....Had the Lizzy out yesterday. Run fine. Am going today again. Has Jim Ream a return ticket or not?*

By December 16th, Will was back at Lava Hot Springs, which was about 60 miles from Dingle. He wrote again on December 20th. *Hard day all round with treatments and baths but am getting along fine and will go to the ranch Thursday and stay over till Xmas. Would like to stay here for 2 or 3 months then I think I would be in fine shape. Have the nerve from the right hip to foot working and feeling in it all the way down something that has not been for over 30 years. But my knee is weak and can't stand my weight.* To my doctor's ear that sounds like a serious back problem involving the sciatic nerve, not just "rheumatism." *Sent 5 gallon can of honey from Twin Falls which should reach you by Christmas....Will not go to Burley as times are getting harder to get money and I am needing these baths. Started treatment with Dr. Schwartz.*

On Christmas Eve, Will wrote from Dingle*, Mabel and I are alone. M.A.* (Mitchel) *and K.D.* (Kenneth) *are out setting traps for kyoties* (coyotes, of course). *M.A. caught one today, an old female about 5 or 6 year old. There are lots of them round.*

Kenneth was back in school in Pocatello by January 3, 1921. That week Will wrote three times to Nora, obviously lonely, moaning about money problems, still waiting for the court to convene.

Wesley's wife Mamie saved a letter that Nora sent January 24, 1921 from Long Beach. *I loved the little picture of the boys and Helen. I didn't send a letter of explanation of the Christmas present we sent: it was a petticoat for you (Mamie), but since we didn't know your size, Ida thought you could cut off enough to make it the right length. I hope the pajamas weren't too small. Mamie, did Warren* (Mamie's brother—he was the bishop) *ever get the letter from our ward here asking for our recommends? They never came—maybe Warren didn't think we were worthy of one…if that's the case, we won't keep asking.* (Just another little reference to the friction in Dingle). *I am a little behind on my tithing, but I'll make it up as soon as I can. Kiss the children for me.*

Will may have made it to California that winter after the January court date, since there were no letters between him and Nora for a couple of months, but she was writing to him again on May 3rd from Long Beach. He had not stayed for Rodney and Milton's high school graduation in Long Beach on June 23rd.

Ida, Nora, Will, and Beulah at Mammoth Falls

Nora and the kids must have gone back to Dingle after graduation, for she was in Dingle on August 5, 1921 to receive a sad and shocking telegram saying that "Mamie" Smith Larsen, Nora's niece, friend, and colleague, died in Long Beach at age 47. The telegram was sent by Mamie's 16 year old son Theone at 8:45 am. It mentioned Mrs. Grundy, Nora's neighbor, who was trying to support Theone in Nora's absence.

The LDS church stepped in for Nora to help Theone as well. The California Mission President, with whom Nora was obviously acquainted, filled her in on the situation in a letter that arrived in Dingle a few days later.

Amasa Jay Redd and family about 1921

You have of course been notified of the death of Sister Larsen….Complete surprise to me as I supposed she was getting along well. I called to see her on the evening of the day she died, this was Friday the 5th. I hadn't been notified...so was much surprised to find that she was in the morgue. Theone and Mrs. Grundy arranged to have the Cleveland Undertakers….I have just returned from the funeral now. It was held at 2 pm in the Cleveland Parlors. Pres. B.M. Jones conducted it. President Redd gave an account of the program, then, *Theone is feeling pretty bad. I haven't talked much to him*

yet. He tells us that he has received about $75 from relatives so far and that more will come. I believe Mrs. Grundy is very good to Theone. Sis. Larsen's body didn't look natural, badly bloated and discolored. The nurse said she had been irrational for about five days before her death....You remember I spoke in my other letter of leaving a note with her to give Theone telling him to bring me his address, it seems that this was never given him, so I haven't known at all where he has been living. I have been anxious to learn of her but haven't had the time to make the trips. I am sure we could all do more for him if he would allow us to. It's a sad thing to see him alone in the world now. If he can keep in the right company he will get along alright....Don't you think her brothers should be allowed to stand the funeral expenses? The boy is quite well up against it I think.

Well, President Redd was right to worry about Theone. It is too bad that he missed connections with the boy and did not have time to look after him. Theone's uncles were little help to him either. His Uncle Roland lived in Burley, his Uncle Rochester in Salt Lake. The neighbor, Mrs. Grundy, probably did what she could but she was not family. I believe Ida may have stayed in Long Beach that summer—if so, she was the only family member to help. After the funeral, Theone simply disappeared.

By September 24th, Nora was back to her home in Long Beach. In October she heard from Kenneth in college at Pocatello. Milton wrote from Salt Lake, where he and Rodney were freshmen at the University of Utah. Beulah would be working two more months in an operating room in Chicago. Wesley wrote to Nora from Blackfoot, where he was attending an educators' convention, and Will wrote from Dingle that he was having more trouble with his rheumatism. He planned to turn over the ranch to Doug for one year, reserving the Peterson place for himself, which he planned to *improve if everything does not go against me.*

And then on November 4th, 1921 Theone Larson popped up. He wrote to Ida in Long Beach from Oregon. He was in jail. *No doubt you have wondered where I am since you saw me last. Well I am in The Dalles, Ore in the county jail charged with larceny or in other words the theft of one Nash car. I left Long Beach and went to Portland Ore., from there to The Dalles, from there to jail....The crime that I am charged with calls for 1 to 10 years in the State Penitentiary at Salem, Ore but I don't think I will have to serve over two years at the most....I have been in jail 31 days but have not got up courage to write to you before. Well, give my love to your mother and Ella. Theone.*

And word came the next day from another source. On November 5th Rodney wrote to Nora from Salt Lake: *When is Dad going to Calif? Have you heard the latest about Theone? About three weeks ago Uncle H. E. Crockett got a letter from him in the pen at Salem Ore. They had him locked up for stealing an auto. His trial won't come off until Feb, so it must be a Federal case. He wanted Uncle to send him some cigarettes or some money to buy them with. He afterwards wrote, telling him not to bother, but he would like him to go his bail for $500.* Milton sent Nora a long letter November 11th with more information. Milton was *lonesome for Long Beach...I miss my Maw.* He described life with Rodney and the details of their living

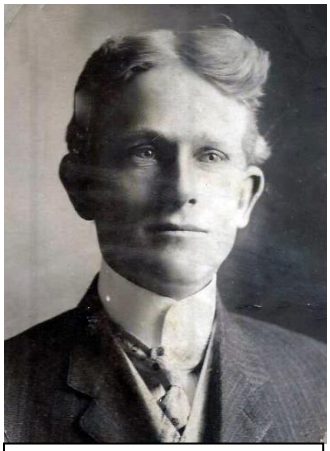
space. Uncle Hite had been near the jail on a business trip to Portland but had declined to visit Theone nor use his political position to work out a transfer to Utah, explaining that Theone needed to learn a lesson. Milton continued, *Theone wrote Uncle Hyte giving him one grand bawling out. Uncle said he could hear Mamie raving when he read the letter. It was very rank.* Sounds like Mamie Larsen had been a pretty outspoken person herself.

For his part, Theone was making a case with Ida, the only sympathetic relative he seemed to have. He wrote her a series of letters that revealed his interesting personality. I enjoyed them, so I'll include them for you, though I admit it is a bit of a digression. I won't be offended if you want to skip the next page or two.

On November 20th Theone wrote to Ida. W*e only get one piece of writing paper per week, please send paper and envelopes and stamps so I can write to you real often. I am so sorry that I did not take your advice and stay in LB. Believe me, if I ever see you again and you give me advice, I sure will heed it. I am so sorry that I got in trouble and sorrier still that I got caught. It won't do any good to hope that I am shielding anyone, because I took the car and there is no getting around it....I am good for 1-10 years in the state pen....This is not a Federal crime as I didn't take the car out of the state. I wasn't intending to keep the car, just to use if for a few hours. I sure wish I was in Dingle sitting down to roast turkey and all the fixings. Oh boy. If I ever get out of this scrape I will never get in another one. Uncle Hite wrote me a letter and said he hoped there was good books in prison. "We are what we make ourselves." Oh, he was a sarcastic old pill.*

Nora got a letter from her sister Lydia Lamoreaux from Thatcher, Arizona written December 1st. *Heard you had two...boys in Salt Lake going to school, so I thought you would not go to Calif this winter, but I am glad you are there...you seem so much nearer....It is very hard for farmers....Hard to keep* (Lydia's son) *Douglas on a mission...gone 26 months and a little more. I feel so sorry for Theone. Hite told me he was in Jail in Oregon for stealing an automobile and had written to him to send him some cigarettes, which he did not do. It seemed sad for Mamie to die out there away from all her folks....Did Chess* (Mamie's brother) *get there before she died? Too bad you could not have been there. Did she suffer a great deal? I hope you have enough boarders to pay you. It is nice for you to be with Ida. Is Beulah ever coming home?* This makes me think that Theone and Mamie had been boarding with Nora in Long Beach, which would explain why Nora's neighbors, the Grundy's knew them, and possibly why Theone felt so close to Ida.

The same day, December 1, 1921, Theone wrote to Ida again on county clerk stationary: *Dear Ida: I received your letter last Friday but have not had stationary to write till now. For goodness sakes, yes send me some cigarettes. I have had to impose on the generosity of the other inmates of the jail. This makes 62 days in jail and I only had 45 cents when I was arrested so you can tell that I haven't bought many cigarettes. If I had that chicken up here in jail that you have there I would eat him feathers and all. I sure am one hungry person. If I only had a few slices of bread at night it sure would help. You know going 17½ hours between meals is a long time. You know food is all I think of in jail so excuse me writing so much about*



Owen Walter Halverson, Chiropractor

it. So I will talk on some different subject. You will have to excuse the writing as my pencil is only about an inch long. Say Ida I have been getting the Long Beach Telegram every day. I read in one issue that Dr. Halverson had been arrested. Have looked in on the papers after that but have not heard any about his case. Halverson was a Mormon from Salt Lake City. After serving a mission he lived in Los Angeles in 1917, probably in chiropractic school, was in SLC in the 1920 census, but in Long Beach in 1930 as a chiropractor. Since he is mentioned in the letter, he must have set up his office in 1921. I suspect that he may have attended to Mamie... *Now you know that I am interested so in your next letter to me tell me all about it. Ida, I wish you would eat a 1 lb. box of chocolates, 1 devil-food cake, and drink a chocolate malted milk for me. I have got 70 more days to wait for my trial. I sure hope and pray that I will get released then I don't know what on earth I'll do if I have to go to the pen. Dear girl, write often to me. I sure am lonesome and discouraged this afternoon. I'd give 10 years of my life to be released now. Well give my love to your mother and Ella. I am sending a million hugs and kisses.*

Theone. c/o Levi Chrisman The Dalles Ore. P.S. All the men in jail expected mail today but we were all disappointed.

Another letter came from Theone on December 12. I assume there were as many to him from Ida, which I do not have.

Dear Ida! I have not got a letter from you since God knows when. I sure wish that you would write to me at least once a week. How is Aunt Nora? Is Ella still staying with you? I have to call her Ella because I don't know her last name. Ella must have been another lodger at the Reams' or lodging with Grundys. *Say Ida, I wish you would please send me six packages of gum. Some of that homemade candy that you make so good, also a quart jar of those fig preserves with walnuts in that you made last September. Or if you haven't that kind send some other kind. This is an awful nervy thing to ask but I sure need "succor." I get so darn hungry for something sweet I don't know what to do.*

My hair is below my chin in front and is sticking out like a Bolshevik's. I haven't had a haircut since a week before I left Long Beach or about Sept 15, so you can tell just about how I look. To see me behind the bars in my cell I would look like a wild man in a circus. Boy! Oh, boy! I sure wish I was out of here. One damn day is just like another and they all seem about a week long. You are lucky that you have your freedom and all you want to eat. I sure wish I was out. Well please send me those things and also write to me soon. Give my love to Aunt Nora and Ella. Worlds of love. Your Cousin, Theone Larsen. c/o Levi Chrisman, The Dalles Ore.

Theone wrote again the day after Christmas. *Dear Ida: I got your package and was sure tickled. Everything was just fine. I had almost thot that you had forgotten me. I have not heard a word from any of the folks since Oct 30th except you. Now I can write to you without*

every one knowing that you are getting a letter from a sheriff. How is Aunt Nora now? I hope everyone is OK down in the sunny Cal. I sure wish that I was there now. If I get out in Feb. which I hope I do I will sure go there if I possibly can. I won't have a dime in my pocket but maybe I can get by. You know I left L. B. in Sept with only sixty cents in my jeans.

I don't suppose I ever told you that I was not alone when I stole the car. There was two other young men with me. The sheriff said that he thot when I went up before Grand Jury that they would release me. I sure hope so. Oh boy I get the Long Beach Telegram from a boyfriend of mine who sells papers on Ocean and Pine. He is a big fat kid, you have probably seen him. So you see I get a lot of L.B news.

Dear girl I hated to ask you for all of that stuff but I was so hungry that I thot I didn't know what to do. Believe me when I get out of jail I am going to obey the law so much that I won't even spit on the sidewalks. Well I wish you all a Happy New Year and hope you had a Merry Xmas. Please write to me often for I sure will be glad to hear from you. Give my love to your mother and Ella. Your loving Cousin, Theone Larsen

In the meantime, the rest of the family was communicating with Nora. Wesley was teaching school in Lund, Idaho. Surprisingly he seemed pretty active in church activities there. *I am teacher in Mutual and in Religion class. I have had a hard row to hoe with my school though. They are beginning to show some improvement now but for a long while it looked like a hopeless task....I will have just one week of vacation...will go home....Cold house...and cold weather....Helen gets cuter every day. She can say little rhymes all by herself. Her hair curls better now that it is longer. Jean and Lane often talk of you and Aunt Ida.*

Milton, Beulah, and Rodney were in touch with her. So was Will. On December 27th he wrote, *Had Christmas here with all the kids, but W.W. was with Sirrines, they came home Friday. We had no fire and all the rooms were cold as was Mary's room. Gray absolutely refused to lend me any more so I told him to go to hell it was the last I should ask him. Am getting some federal money on stock and will pay him sometime next month. Have some more debts and still more.* And then three days later he wrote again telling about Beulah leaving the hospital for four months without regret. *What I meant in the telegram is this: in the mortgage I gave 60 head of cows and 40 calves...so I will be unable to sell anything.* The kids were all going back after being together for Christmas. *There will be just Doug and I left at the ranch....Well if you take my suggestion and cut out this thing of working so hard you will make (it) in the long run. Have nearly all of the taxes paid, some I had to let go delinquent.* He was not sure when he could get away to California.

Then on December 31st Theone was writing again to Ida. *I can never forgive you for telling Fannie about me....Today makes 88 days in jail with 44 more to go. Then I will begin looking for a job. I don't just know what to do. I won't have a dime...no clothes for the North either. I am figuring on going to Portland then work my way on a boat either to the Orient or else San Pedro. So you may either expect me in LB about Mar 1st or not at all. Ida I don't see whatever*

Fanny at age 15

Emily Stock at age 18

made you tell Grundys about me when I told you not to. But the damage is now done I guess. I don't see how Theone could have hoped to keep his exploits a secret. And Fanny, of all people, would understand. I've found a lot about Fannie Grundy, who is an interesting character herself. Fannie May Lent at age 15 married a grading contractor named Walter Stock. She suddenly took her two girls ages 3 and 4 and left him when she was 22, later marrying Roy Grundy and moving to Gaviota Avenue. At the time of Mamie's death, Fannie was 33. Her oldest daughter, Emily Stock was 15 and may have been the girl with whom Theone was infatuated, whom he called Ella.

But now, back to the story. The new year did not bring much relief to Will's financial situation. He wrote on January 5, 1922, *Have seen G.C. Gray and arranged about the note and mortgaged, you can sign the papers....I am needing money badly just now.* They did have food. A couple weeks later Doug sent Nora some beef.

Theone had money problems, too. He wrote on January 6th, *I am pretty sure of getting out Feb. 7, so I wish you would slip me a $5 or $10 bill so I will have money to eat till I can get on a boat for San Pedro. I will go to Portland and hunt up a boat bound for San Pedro and get a job on it but I will have to have fare to get to Portland and also some for grub... P.S. the boys with me got caught and are in jail with me now. They are the age of 21 and 24.* He didn't apparently get the money from Ida. On the 20th he wrote, *I guess that I will have to get along without any kale. I guess times are sure hard outside. I know from notices in the papers that there is no work up here. Just as you said, 50 men for every job up here. So you see that I am in an awful pickle. I guess maybe that I won't starve but I may come near doing it.*

I wrote Uncle Roland before I wrote you for money and he said that on account of bank failures in Burley that he had lost $3,000 of his own money and $7,000 of county money that he was responsible for. So you see no success from that source. However, don't worry about me as I will get by. Somehow or another.

Sometime in January or early February, Will joined Nora in Long Beach until April. Kenneth wrote to him there on February 1, 1922.

On February 3rd, Theone wrote to Ida, *thot that I would write once more before I go up to trial. I have only got four more days to wait. I don't know what I will do when I get out. Do something tho I guess. Sure not any work in The Dalles or Portland either. Hundred men for every job so the paper says. Is Ella still boarding with you? Does she know where I am? Do the Grundys know? Here's hoping not.*

And then on February 11th, *Dear Ida: I am now out of jail. Been out ever since 5:30 pm. So you see that I am now having my liberties the same as anyone else. You can't call me a car thief now. I and the two other boys went up before Grand Jury yesterday to face a charge of grand larceny. After we had told our story they considered the case for several hours. Then they took us up in the courtroom and read an indictment charging us with <u>borrowing a car with no intentions of stealing it.</u> The indictment came as a great surprise to me, as I didn't think that they would indict us. But in the indictment...* The next page is missing.

Then on February 14 there was a postcard to Ida: *I am in G--er and will be in Sacramento 2:50 pm and in Long Beach tomorrow night. Theone*

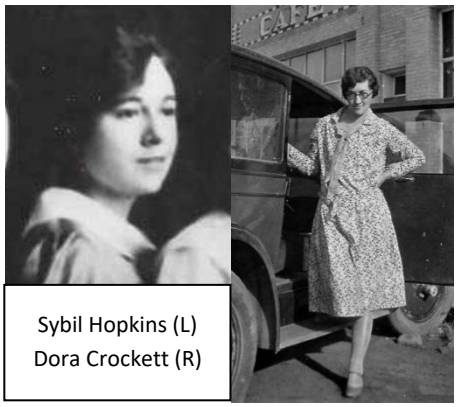
Theone was only mentioned one more time in any of the Ream letters. Will warned Nora to keep away from him. On May 22 he told her to *have as little to do with Theone as possible. He is of the same caliber as Roland.* Roland was Theone's uncle. It must have been quite a family. Having no more information from the letters I had to do a little research on my own about Theone. It turns out that he made good on his promise to Ida not to get into trouble with the law again. In fact, he ended up successfully working for the State of California.

Upon his return to Long Beach he managed to get a job with "Asso. Tel. Co." according to a 1922 city directory, living on 563 Cherry Street. He dropped the name Theone by which the family knew him, going by Fred T. Larsen, a version of his actual given first name of Frederick. By 1929 he was working as an oil worker, living on Lime Avenue. Oil was a booming business at that time in Long Beach. The 1930 census found him still living on Lime Street, rooming with a 22 year old bank bookkeeper named George W. Lewis. He was still working for the oil company as a transportation clerk. He turned 26 in 1931, still boarding on Lime Street and working for the oil company. The next year he married Beatrice Virginia Watts in Los Angeles on Jun 15, 1933 and moved to 63b Prospect Avenue, still working as a clerk. The next year, he was listed as an accountant. In 1938 at age 33 he was living at a different address, and was no longer with Beatrice. He filled out a WWII draft card October 16, 1940 which listed his employer as the State of California Board of Equalization. His complexion was described as ruddy, eyes and hair brown, height six feet. He listed as next of kin Garret A. Rourke, a state auditor, and probably a friend and co-worker of Theone. By 1946 Theone was living in Los Angeles, and in 1949 he moved to Sacramento, evidently having been promoted to work at the state capitol. There he married Zetta Myrl Lewis. He was 48 and she was 50. They lived on Country Club Drive, which suggests a good neighborhood to me, retiring as a tax auditor. Zetta died in Sacramento in 1973 and Theone died five months later on April 8, 1974 at the age of 68, having apparently lived a respectable and successful life with no further contact with his family.

Delia's kids in 1922

On March 4, 1922 Wesley wrote a long and interesting letter to his mother Nora from Lund, Idaho, where he had been teaching school. In this letter and most of his others that year he spoke often of Aunt Delia. This was Delia Sophia Crockett Lechtenberg. She and her husband Peter lived in nearby Bancroft and had really taken Wesley and his young family under her wing and remained close to him and Mamie for the rest of her life. Delia was not Nora's sister, but rather her half-sister, the very one who had lived with Nora in Dingle in 1887 as a fifteen-year-old to help with Wesley when he was an infant. She had created a lifetime bond with him. *Seven weeks since I have been over to Aunt Delia's...seldom out of the house except to go to school.* He described in himself what seems to be several weeks of pleurisy, and saw the doctor. His wife Mamie was miserable now herself, so one of Delia's boys had been doing the chores. *I have not seen so much snow since I was six....I expect to pass most of the eighth grade.* But they don't study much. *The people seem to like me quite well.... I will have the school offered to me again...but have applied to an agency to get me a school in a warm climate...or have Dingle put in a high school and have me there.*

Will wrote to Nora from Salt Lake City on April 1, 1922 on his way home to Dingle. He was at Zettie's and would try to see Chess before leaving. Zetta Hancock was Nora's cousin. Chess was Theone's uncle. Will was in Bear Lake a day or two later. *Came home on last train to Montpelier. (Doug) came over on front bob....The high center of snow rubbed the 2 x 6 off the runners and the horse kicked mud all over so it was some ride....Will not seem long till June. I sure hope so.*



Sybil Hopkins (L)
Dora Crockett (R)

By April 10th Will was back in Salt Lake City. *Came from LHS* (Lava Hot Springs) *with Hal...was 3 nights on the ranch since I left LB. Will be here till the 12 or 13... You are the best sport I have met. Roxie is at Hite's.... (she) wants to see you very badly. (Rodney and Mitchel) are doing well. Wish I could come on instead of going to Bear Lake. I am stuck on you and California. Dora told me the next day when she got in the store she had a good cry, she felt so bad and her trip only seems a dream. She hopes someday to go again to Calif.* The Dora that Will mentioned was probably Dora Mary Crockett, the 21 year old daughter of Willie and Stella, in Montpelier. Apparently she had been spending time with Nora and Ida in Long Beach. *Well Roxie looks well and Sibble* (Sybil Hopkins, Roxie's 26 year old daughter and Beulah's favorite cousin) *will come to B.L. 2 weeks this summer.*

Will stayed in Salt Lake City for at least a week, sending two more letters to Nora. Beulah wrote to her in Long Beach from Chicago about her upcoming graduation from nursing school after three years of hard work.

Will wrote to Nora every week in May from Dingle. In his second letter he wrote, *Three weeks today at about 1:30 you will be in S.L. on your way to B.L. Wish you were here today as it is Mothers' Day. Had a letter from Beulah. She is well and...will aim to be here in July. W.W.'s school will be out so he will be here by the 25th. Had a letter from Maud last night. She wants me to come to Burley and drive her Ford down to B.L....She and Herold will visit a while before he moves to Seattle....Lovell is there now had a job.* These are Maud's two sons.

It looks as if Will was planning to take out a mortgage on their house in Dingle. On May 22nd he wrote, *looking for the deed every mail...it may cost me a lawsuit and lose besides another trip. If it is not on the way get it coming right now. I leave tomorrow for Burley to get Maud and Harold....Tomorrow is Beulah's day. Wish I was there.*

He could hardly wait for Nora to arrive. *KD will be first home, then R.M.* (I don't know who R.M. would be). *You the last before Beulah. Lilacs are just budding, the myrtle is blooming. Everything needs watering....I'm working round the lot trying to get things looking as best that can be by the time the appraiser gets here....He would loan $5,000 on the house. So see, we will hold onto the home....A lot of people closed on, and H.H. Dalrymple has lost everything. When I got thru scrubbing, Bunco Billy Baboon Dayton came teaching and found me alone and we changed the meeting into a lecture...the pleasure I took teasing him. George Humphreys of Paris died and was buried last week.* There was much more gossip—he was really on a roll.

Nora arrived a week later as promised, but Ida stayed in Long Beach. Nora immediately sent a long, newsy letter to her about the farm and family. Maud and Harold were still there. The yard looked great. *Will has never been so glad to have me back. Will Crockett very ill. Hite's folks probably won't get down there, so don't plan that way. Take another lady roomer after the girls go.* Nora wrote every week to Ida that summer. On June 22nd she wrote that she was recovering from flu and mentioned Helen, Lane, and Jean. *Helen is <u>very, very</u> pretty and can say pieces too and can sing a little.* Helen was two. On August 10th, Nora wrote to Ida that Beulah had been offered a job as supervisor of the surgical division at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake.

Beulah wrote to Nora and Will five days later from the hospital. On her first day she was *turned loose* and was the only supervisor in the building. She was younger than they had expected, but they hoped she could rule with a heavy hand and much love at the same time. Beulah passed her nursing boards on August 30th.

Having Beulah in the LDS surgery department turned out to be fortunate for Nora, who had developed some sort of surgical problem. She sent a telegram to Ida on September 9th: *Condition is growing rapidly worse, doctor advises immediate operation.* I wish that I knew for sure what sort of problem Nora was having. I think people did not think it proper to

discuss such things at all, let alone in a letter. Evidently Will did not go to Salt Lake City with Nora.

Stella Lee Crockett

On September 18th Beulah wrote to Will from the hospital. *Mother looks like a well woman....Aunt Stella came to the hospital today, will have her operation in few days.* Stella was Willie Crockett's wife, the mother of Dora. Beulah would have her hands full, and that was only the smaller part of her problem. She had been attending her uncle Henry Wallace Crockett at his home in Provo. Henry, who was 15 years younger than his sister Nora, was the manager of a farm belonging to the Utah State Mental Hospital. He had been severely ill with a ruptured appendix and peritonitis. After Nora's operation, but before Stella's, Beulah visited him at his home on her day off. Outraged at the incompetent care he was receiving from *his lazy and incompetent nurse* Beulah had her fired and arranged for the best nurse in Provo to attend to him. When she realized that Uncle Henry needed 24-hour nursing, she left her new job (and apparently left her mother and her aunt) at LDS hospital and moved to Provo to attend to him. Beulah wrote to Nora, *Aunt May was so relieved when I came, it was the first time she had relaxed and slept at all. She said I was sent by God to save Uncle Henry's life, and that if he lives she will owe it all to me. So that's two lives I'll have.*

On September 27th Nora wrote to Will. *Dr. Stevenson did not charge for the surgery because of Beulah. Hite will come for me today. The Dr. says we can start for Cal. a week from today. Stella will sit up for the first time today and can go to Hite's Friday.* And two days later, *we are all worried about Henry.* He had been in emergency surgery. Beulah was still attending him.

Henry Wallace Crockett

When Stella had recovered sufficiently to travel, they both left Hite Crockett's Salt Lake home and took the train together to Long Beach where they recovered together. Nora telegraphed Ida on October 5th: *Arriving Friday, meet us.* On October 10th she wrote to Will, *I just sleep and rest.* Three days later, *Stella and I are both getting a little stronger each day...not working any yet. Walked 2 blocks and back for exercise. Stella looks younger than she has looked in years. Beulah told me how awful bad Henry is.*

Beulah wrote further, *Miss Lyons at LDS Hospital didn't want me to go, so I know I'll have a sweet time when I get back. If she gets fresh you may see me in California before long.*

Henry was too far gone to save. There were no antibiotics in those days, and he developed a lung abscess and died on October 15th at the age of 45 of *acute appendicitis with*

peritonitis and metastatic abscess of the right lung, despite surgery. Beulah had lost her extra life.

Beulah wrote on October 19th, *if you thought I looked tired the last time you saw me, you should have seen me when I came off Uncle Henry's case. I worked 7 am to midnight, and another nurse 7 pm to noon. I am going to spend the rest of my life making up for lost sleep. Aunt May wanted to pay me for the time down there, but I am not going to take anything. I ought to be able to do that much for her.*

I didn't lose my job. In fact they were so glad to get me back they could scarcely contain themselves. The work is heavy, nearly every bed is filled.[52]

Will was at Lava Hot Springs again.

Nora and Will sent several letters back and forth that fall. Will had stayed behind to take care of legal matters as well as his rheumatism. On November 19th Nora, predicted that the legal matter would stretch out for months or years. She was right. Aunt Stella was expecting to start for home next Saturday.

On November 25, 1922 Nora wrote, *Maybe I should sell out here and stay up there with you. I think we ought to be together the rest of our lives. I have been thinking each year that the next you could be here all winter...but something always hinders....They are planning to build a church on the corner and are interested in buying our property here in Long Beach. Real estate is booming. A man offered Ida $1,900 for her Cedar lot...a big profit. She hardly knows what to do.*

The next month Nora's neighbors, the Grundy's, put their house up for sale. But for the Reams nothing changed. Nora remained in California and did not sell her house on Gaviota. And Will could not yet pull himself away from the ranch and his legal issues.

Nora apparently was not saving all of Will's letters during that period, for she answered a question that did not appear in any letter in the collection. It was about the operation in September.

On November 29th she wrote, *about my operation, I thought Beulah explained it to you. As far as I know there was no cutting done on the inside of me, no organs removed, only put to place and sewed there. There is a large hard lump in the lower part of my abdomen.* It appears to me that Nora had probably suffered a prolapse of her bladder and possibly of her uterus as a consequence of her ten deliveries.

On January 9, 1923 Nora wrote about Christmas from Long Beach to Mamie and Wesley, who had moved from Lund to Bern, Idaho for another teaching job. It was much closer to home. That same day Milton wrote to Nora that he had signed up to run the ranch for three years. Will wrote four days later that he had always hated Bear Lake. He had been in Bear

[52] Lucinda Bateman and Helen Ream Bateman, *Beulah, the Good Doctor, A Biography of Beulah Ream Allen,* p. 53-54.

Lake for Christmas without Nora, waiting for a court case to come up. In February he went to Burley to be with Leonard and Elda, having included another a trip to Lava Hot Springs.

By February 21 he was in the Montpelier office of his attorney, H. L. Bagley. The lawyers were trying to stipulate a settlement, but there had been no decision. He said that his rheumatism was worse. Elda and Leonard were hoping to rent their home, lease their store, and travel for a year or so. On February 26th he wrote that he was lonely, having court problems. It was a water rights case. *Dreamed you were with me with your arms around me. Woke and could not sleep.*

She answered on March 1, 1923 that she had been expecting Will any day in Long Beach. He wrote on March 18th still in Dingle that Wesley's boys Jean and Lane had been very sick with fever. *Reasons that I am not coming to Cal. are numerous. No money, no time, many others. I do not look for anything doing in court till regular session sometime about June. W.W. and Mamie's baby is sure a fine one.* That would have been Mary Ida, their second girl.

Nora was still pushing to get them together. On March 26th she wrote, *if you start planning now, and get the water case settled, maybe you can come down in September for the winter.*

Stella wrote Nora from Montpelier on April 2nd, worried about her own husband Will. *Will (Crockett) is losing weight, can't keep food down, fears he has cancer.* He didn't have cancer; he lived 11 more years and died at age 66 of influenza. *Too bad your Will couldn't get down at all this winter.*

Nora did not sell her house, but she got interested in real estate, probably being tutored by Ida. Long Beach was booming with the oil industry. She wrote to Will on April 14th that she was looking into real estate in Del Porte about halfway between Long Beach and Los Angeles—buying several lots, and then re-selling them. She would be returning to Dingle soon via SLC.

Beulah wrote to Will from LDS Hospital on June 25th that she had decided she wanted to become a doctor. Ida wanted her to give up nursing and come do real estate with her, for which Ida had quit teaching. Beulah hoped to go with Uncle Hyrum Crockett *back east* that summer. She registered that fall at the University of Utah medical school. Also that fall, Douglas was ordained an elder in Dingle, and then married Lucile Krogue in Salt Lake. On October 6th, Will wrote to Nora that it was *hell to sleep alone.*

Nora sent an informative letter from Long Beach to Wesley's wife, Mamie. *I am enclosing a check that Ida gives the baby* (Wesley and Mamie's second daughter and Ida's namesake, Mary Ida, had turned one on November 1) *to start her savings account. She intended to send it in time for her birthday....Ida is going to LA to a big ball game. Her beau has had the tickets for weeks. They expect 100,000 people....It is a big affair between "Berkley U" and the "Southern Branch."* Both UCLA's rose bowl and USC's coliseum were built in 1922 and 1923. I think the southern branch was USC since the Rose Bowl is in Pasadena, not LA.

On November 23rd Beulah wrote to Nora that Will had been sick and she had gone to Dingle to take care of him.

January 16, 1924 Will was still in Dingle. Then he wrote to Nora on January 31st from Salt Lake. I think he was on his way to California, for there were no more letters between them that winter or spring.

However, Nora sent a mini-letter to Wesley on February 28th, written on a quarter sheet of paper. *I am mailing today a few things Ida is sending to Mamie and the children. The bonnet and the little George Washington dress are for Hellen for her (fourth) birthday. We hope they fit. I made the dress out of Ida's old one. The big dress of course is for Mamie. The coat I thought would fit Gene (sic). The little windmill is for Lane and the harness for Mary Ida.*

Beulah addressed both parents in Long Beach when she wrote on May 19, 1924. Will was back in Dingle in June when he wrote to Nora, enclosing letters from her two sisters in Arizona. Nora was still in Long Beach when Will wrote to her from Soda Springs on July 29th, but she must have returned to Bear Lake before September 27th when Ida wrote to her there from Long Beach. Nora answered on October 2nd that she was tired of being cold and was ready to move back to California, and she left Dingle again on October 10th, having been at the ranch for only two weeks.

Will was in Dingle all fall and the two corresponded regularly. Beulah made another sick visit to Will, which she reported to Nora in December. Will wrote to Nora from Dingle on January 2, 1925 to mention the birth of Forrest, a 7½ pound boy to Doug and Lucille who had been born three days earlier in Oakland. *Wish you were here. Maybe someday you will be.* Fabian was writing to Nora from Dingle as well.

Ever in financial trouble, Will wrote to Ida on January 5th hoping to secure a note on her 640 acres in Pine Springs.

Nora

January 13, 1925, Nora's brother George Emer Crockett, who was serving as an Idaho state senator out of Preston, wrote her from the senate in Boise, wanting to know what the attraction was in California that was keeping Nora away from her family. George Emer was just one year younger than Nora—that is likely not the only time they spoke so bluntly with each other. I truly wish I had her answer to that letter.

Through the end of March, Will wrote about every week. He hoped to see Nora soon in Dingle. On May 14th he wrote from Montpelier. Did she plan to come home for the summer? Surprise, she did. She was at Milton's graduation from the University of Utah that June. She stayed in Dingle all that summer but returned in the fall to teach school in Long Beach.

That summer Will began transferring his property in Bear Lake County to his children. The first transfer of property was on August 13, 1925 to Ida. He made another on November 24th to Mitchel. Then in November he headed south. He and Beulah wrote to Nora together from Salt Lake on December 6th and he was in Long Beach with Nora before Christmas.

Fabian and his sister, Ida

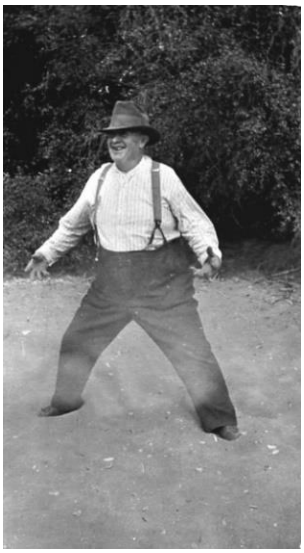
On December 23, 1925 Fabian and Ruth were married in Salt Lake City.

On January 30, 1926 Will's brother Jim died in Dingle. Milton sent him the news. Nora's older sister Delia Crockett Curtis died on April 14th in Gridley, California, north of Sacramento.

Will made his longest stay to date in California, lasting five months. He returned via Berkeley, from where he wrote to Nora on May 23rd. He must have been visiting Douglas and Lucille, where Douglas was attending college. By June he was headed home for Dingle.

By this time Nora had been living in southern California for about 8½ years, though returning most summers. As far as I can tell, Will really did not ever feel like Long Beach was his home. He wrote Nora frequently that summer through the end of July, always from Dingle except for a single letter from Lava Hot Springs. In August 1926 the whole family was together at Bear Lake. If I have misidentified any the people below, please correct me.

Back: Will, Lane, Jean, Nora. Center: Forrest, Mary Ida, Hazel Dawn
Front: Lois, Helen Will at right ⟶



Rear: Douglas, Mitchel, Wesley, Nora, Will.
Front: Fabian, Ida, Kenneth, Beulah, Rodney, Milton

There were no more letters between Nora and Will that year after July, suggesting that they both returned to Long Beach that fall. If so, Will would have spent eight months in California in 1926, more than in the previous eight years combined.

There is an unexplained gap in the letter collection of nearly two years at this point until October 1, 1928 when Nora wrote to Will in Dingle from Long Beach. I would like to believe that the gap came because they were together and had no need to write. Perhaps that is part of the explanation, but there were no letters saved during that period by Nora from *anyone.* Until then, she had been keeping 50-100 per year. They have simply been lost, at least lost to me. I will cover this gap as well as I can from other sources.

On February 25, 1927 Douglas wrote to his brother Wesley from Berkeley. Evidently Wesley had been giving his brother Douglas financial support toward his education, which suggests to me that Will and Nora had not been in a position to do so. *Ashamed of having never written sooner....Hereby tender a receipt for $1,014.75....I appreciated it very much. A greater part of that amount was applied to payment on the home....I quit my steady job Jan 9, and have only earned a little money since....School is going out....I will file my application for...medical school on March 9—to enter August 1927.* Douglas did begin medical school as planned. His sister Beulah began medical school that September at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Will must have been in Dingle in May, 1927. On the 19th of that month he transferred the title to some of his holdings in Bear Lake to Wesley.

Norma Volker

On June 21, 1927 Rodney Ream married Norma Volker in LA. Fabian and Ruth had moved back to the Philippines.

In 1928 Dingle finally got electric power. On March 1, 1928 Douglas wrote to Wesley from Berkeley, *Thanks, the meat arrived in good shape.* Big brother was still helping.

Beulah, Leo Choquette, Ida, with Norma and Rodney on their honeymoon.

Beulah, Leo Choquette, and Ida with Norma and Rodney on their honeymoon.

On March 24th Stella Crockett died in Long Beach. Her body was returned to Montpelier to be buried. She was 53 years old. I wonder whether she had been staying with Nora—it seems likely. A brief biography of Stella says that she and Will had gone to California for his health, when she died suddenly of a stroke.

On June 20th, Ida married Leo Rock "Bob" Choquette in Los Angeles.

Ida on her wedding day

In September 1928, Beulah transferred after her first year of medical school at the University of Utah to the University of San Francisco. Douglas withdrew from Berkeley after his first year and joined her there as a classmate. Will was helping. On October 26th Douglas wrote to thank Will for his check for $200. *Why don't you sell everything you can then come to Calif?*

Will was in Dingle at that time. Nora was writing to him every week from Long Beach that October and November. There were no letters between them after that, suggesting that Will came back to California before Christmas that year. Nora received letters in Long Beach through June 1929 from others, but none from Will.

Nora wrote to Mamie and Wesley on March 21, 1929. *Disappointed, Wesley that you did not get down this winter. Dad thinks you did very well with your pigs to get 94....No, Mrs. Bourne never wrote or sent any money. I wish you or Wesley could see her and see if you can collect anything. She owes $20. Next month it will be a year since she has paid a cent. Lena Smith owes $10 too. If I can sell my ticket I will not be coming home when Dad does. Our ticket are only good till Apr. 8. Dad's rheumatism is not very good. We had letters from Beulah and Milton. They are all well up there.*

On July 25, 1929 Milton married Helen Swensen in Logan. I am quite sure that Will and Nora were in Utah for the occasion, since Nora was receiving mail in Dingle on July 27th.

The great depression began with the stock market crash on October 29, 1929. The Reams probably had no inkling of how much harder their lives were about to become. Sometime that year, Will persuaded Rodney and Norma to leave California, where Rodney was farming somewhere near Death Valley and return to Dingle, where they lived in the mansion and took care of the farm for the next 13 years.

Milton, Helen, Wesley, Kenneth

Nora was in Long Beach sometime before November, possibly earlier in order to begin the next school year there. But it seems more likely to me that she did not teach that fall; she was 67 and past retirement age. Will wrote to her from Dingle on November 19th and sent the letter to San Leandro, where she was staying with Milton and his new wife. Ida wrote to her from Long Beach a day later.

Nora, Milton, Will

Nora was back in Long Beach by December 21. Fabian and Ruth announced the birth of their third baby Katherine in the Philippines on December 30. The letter was addressed to Nora. But Will was there with her, for he send a letter on January 3, 1930 to *Wesley, Mamie, and Kiddies* from Long Beach. *We got the turkey OK before (New Year's). It was a nice one. Just Mama, Beulah and myself to enjoy it....I am going to order paint to go over the place and will have a job for Wesley to do when he gets here. We are beginning to look for him now soon. Beulah is here and will soon be going home. She is at the beach now. I was not at Berkeley very much—it is a long ways from MP's and all seemed so busy.*

My theory is that Will joined Nora in San Leandro and traveled home with her after Thanksgiving, 1929. Fabian would have had no way of knowing that.

Will wrote again to Wesley on January 18th, still hoping in vain for a visit and help with the painting project. *Dear Boy, I am sitting here wondering if you are coming this winter. Norrington was here yesterday and will furnish paint to paint the house and if you were coming would get it and get you to do the painting for me. So fat I have not been off the lot yet, but am getting better....There should be rates on for Calif. soon now if you are coming keep in touch with the RR Ticket Agt. and find out. If you come with stock let me know just about the time you will be here. Beulah went to Frisco just one week today and is at work again. Well do you think you could find me eight or ten young pullets or hens that are laying now or would soon? I miss the chickens here. Tell me the low down of the town and other news in general.*

Still coaxing, Will directed a letter to Mamie a month later. *I have been looking for Wesley every day since the first and wondering why he did not come. Tell him I am still looking for him...I think he will be well paid for the trip (even if he can stay only a couple of weeks.) Just not the man has come and brought a new Maytag washer. I am still on crutches but feel better.* Wesley never showed up to paint.

Will and Nora were together all that winter, and possibly until the end of the summer. There was a tax notice from the Los Angeles County recorder in April 1930 addressed to Will.

The U.S. Census was recorded in Long Beach on April 14, 1930. Will was 70 and Nora was 67 years old. Beulah was with them, certainly only visiting, since she was enrolled at that time in medical school in San Francisco. In fact, the census also counted her in San Francisco that year, rooming with another woman named Olga Loos. Both were listed as thirty years old, although Beulah was actually 33. Ida and Leo Choquette were living with Will and Nora. In April Nora took a trip to visit her sister Lydia Lamoreaux in Arizona, writing to Will in Long Beach.

"Bob" Choquette, Will, Ida, and Wesley

The Dingle water trouble was still not solved. Wesley gave an update to Will on May 18th. *They are still going round and round over the ditch. The latest is that they may arbitrate the assessment. I think that I would settle for the best that they would do, then sue Quayles and Oakey for damages, what their cattle have done to the ditch and hand it to them in other ways.* That did it—Will went back to Dingle for the rest of the year, but possibly not until August. He was writing to Nora from Dingle from September 3rd through December 4th, when he probably returned for Christmas. While Will was in Idaho, Nora's brother Ozro died in Preston at the age of 73.

Will reported on the boys' farm work in detail as well as on the Dingle happenings, but it is clear that he was feeling like a fifth wheel. On November 5th he reported that Rodney and Kenneth were running two tractors and plowing until 10 pm. Thrashing was over. Rodney was at the arbitrators' meeting, which took five days. Oakey and Darney had turned against the irrigation company, leaving just Will and Rodney to fight alone. Wesley and Mamie were planning to take him to Lava tomorrow. *Then if all goes O.K. on the arbitration and they pay up, I will begin to think of coming to L. B. That is, if you would like me to....I have been having opposition in everything, even to the smallest detail, (so) that I have just had to have my fighting up all of the time. I am so cross, just like a bear, that I think that I would be very undesirable to have around....There is no dishonor in fighting if the cause is just and I sure have had a siege this summer....It is hell at 71 when one should have reached the haven of rest to have to fight for a*

place to cast anchor....I wish you were here tonight and it might not be so lonesome. Thursday morning. *Off to Lava today.*

He was also working on another issue with the commissioners. *My cause with commissioners I think will be lost. It was regarding Murkley dugway and ditch. You see I was alone and had Bill, (Hyrum) Oakey, and the sanctified bunch all to fight, but it's off my mind and shall forget it.*

On November 22, 1930 Will wrote again to Nora. *I have not been out of the house since Monday. It has been cold and snow has not gone the least bit....I wrote you a long letter but it was too bum to send. I'll not. I started to tell how I feel but can't so I will let it go.*

November 26th. *I am getting threadbare for credit, so I shall have to sell the place or something else. The cattle are nearly all gone now and I am not out of the woods yet. If I could only get around better than I can, I could get through quicker and better....Well, (Rodney) killed a fine Tom and I dressed it and Norma cooked it and we had dinner about 7:20 tonight....Just us four was all that was here and I thought of you and wondered if you were all alone as you said you were not going to Choquettes' for dinner.*

December 4th. *The tenth is the last day for an appeal in the ditch case. Quayle had $10,000 to spend on it, so he said, but the rest have weakened and paid up on the first but he and Darney, and on the morning of the 11th I'll know. And if he does not get a move on him he will have to pay or in 30 days his stock will be sold I'll not stay for the sale, so if I'm able to come I'll start just after and will come by way of S.L. and not go to Frisco. Would like to see them all, but not this time....You see my cattle gone, my credit slipped too, and when I arrive in L.B. I'll be a tramp, and that will hurt me badly. I sure like to know I can get a boost if I need it, but just now it is a question. Times are so hard here a boost is a rare thing for anyone to get.*

The next day: *Well Lee Darney has just come in and brought Alf's check for his dues and said he saw Bouncing Billy and he said he had decided to pay his, so I am looking for it now soon, and if he does I soon will be on my way to L.B. for a short stay and hope I can get in shape for operation....I want to come home soon and fix the place here and plant several hundred evergreen trees. Something tells me this is going to be my home.* That is interesting. At that point, he seemed to be thinking that he and Nora would be moving permanently back to Dingle. He thought he would go to California, maybe get some sort of surgery done, and then bring Nora back.

The last five months has had me in the air. I sure have had my fighting togs on and since Lee Darney gives the news I begin to feel a change....Well I am feeling much better just now anyway....Love to you, Will.

Mamie's letter collection contains an interesting letter, which went to the Philippine Islands and was somehow returned to Mamie several years later. Her son Lane had been corresponding with his Aunt Ruth, Fabian's wife, whom he had probably never seen. *I wish I could send you a Christmas present, but we have put all our money into the new house. We have two chimneys about four feet above the top of the basement and half of the cement on*

the roof. All the doors are in the basement and most of the windows are in. Jean and I are sleeping down in the basement this winter.

Apparently Will went directly to Nora, probably in time for Christmas, for there were no more letters between them that year. He was still in Long Beach on March 21, 1931 when Wesley and Mamie's 13 year old son Lane tragically died of a ruptured appendix. Nora immediately rushed to Dingle in support.

Alone at the house for a time, Will wrote an interesting document titled, *Getting the Sandstone to Build the House*, dated March 24, 1931, in which he vented the anger he had been harboring for 30 years over a terrible slight, back when he had been building the mansion. This was just another one of many events that had driven a wedge between Will's family and the Dingle community. In the essay he described the laborious process he had used to haul the sandstone from his quarry in Pine Springs down to Arcadia Farm, when he was building the Ream mansion. He only transported stone in winter, not only because he had a break in farm work, but because it was only over the ice that it was possible to transport the heavy stones. He told of making a trip a day with two teams six days a week, leaving the ranch at 5 am and getting back between 4 and 8 pm. It took him until eight or nine oclock to get to the quarry each day depending upon how the snow drifted and filled the road. He sometimes experienced temperatures as low as 15-25° below zero. He felt that these and other similar winter trips had been the source of his rheumatism. The document focused on his last trip of the season in February as the weather was warming up. The end of the steep ice road from the canyon met the frozen Bear River, over which they dragged the stone to the dam, and then pulled it up over the bank to the road home. A large party of Dingle men, the Mormons with whom the Ream family had tangled for years, were completing an irrigation dam, whose head gate they were planning to release at noon. As he was arriving with his last double load of stone, not only did they refuse to delay the release of the head gate for even a few minutes, which flooded the ice and Will's load under two feet of water, they looked on in amusement without lifting a hand to help and left him and his boy and hired man to rescue themselves and their load. Will finished, *Well, they all seemed to think it the right thing to do and seemed to enjoy their religious (rites in) their meetings as usual. This made an impression on me that lasted and is still fresh in my memory....I experienced many a brotherly turn after this event, some worse, that cost me money besides a lot of work and trouble, which I shall record later if nothing prevents.* To my knowledge, he never did.

Will wrote to Nora from Long Beach on March 28th. *I sure feel sorry for Wesley, Mamie, and the kiddies and glad you went....I would like to have been there too, but they know the reasons why.* It is not obvious to me at all why Will did not go with her to Idaho. His own health must have been an issue. *I would like you back when you feel it's the time to come.*

I don't know how long Nora stayed in Dingle. There were no more letters, so Will probably came up soon thereafter and joined her there. I think that the W.D. Ream family held a reunion that summer. Wesley's wife Mamie was keeping a daily journal during that period and wrote in June of 1931, *Reunion at Lake on 21st with ice cream....Rickie's birthday party on 25th.* Ida's boy turned one—he had been born in Los Angeles. *Ida came to wash on 27th Saturday. Made ice cream and took it up to Reams to freeze. Douglas and Beulah left on 28th for San Francisco. Made ice cream for Bob.* I think this was Ida's husband.

Nora in her wedding dress

That is probably when Nora was photographed wearing her wedding dress.[53] I had always thought that she had posed for this picture on her 50th anniversary, but that cannot be true. By then, as one can easily tell from the photos of that occasion, her hair was much grayer, and if I may say so, her figure by then would have made it impossible. It was amazing enough in 1931. Besides, this photo was obviously taken on the steps of Arcadia, the Dingle mansion. I want to believe that she had done it to celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary, but even that seems unlikely. The grass below her feet would not likely have looked that way in November, not to mention that their letters place her in Long Beach, celebrating the occasion without Will that year.

On October 18, 1931 Will was still in Dingle and Nora had gone to San Leandro with Milton and his wife Helen, also visiting Beulah and Douglas. Apparently they had been together in Dingle that summer and then Nora went to the Bay area in the fall for health reasons...*Just a week today since you left.... (Rodney and Kenneth) have gone to see the stock holders about hauling gravel and sand for the head gates in ditch. Most of the grading done and ready to pour cement...doing more than their share (as always). I hope the weather is good till ditch work is done—two weeks at the least....Things do not look so good. May turn out OK, hope so....My side is bothering me some and it makes me nervous to write. When are you going to have your operation?*

Will wrote again a week later on November 1st. He had just returned from Lava Hot Springs. *(Rodney) is finishing pouring concrete on the big head gate just west of the house, the largest in the canal. This finishes all work to be done on this part of the ditch this fall.* The

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[53] On August 18, 1959, one of Nora's granddaughters, Beulah Lee Choquette, wore it for her wedding. The dress was enlarged for that occasion by Helen Ream Bateman, Nora's granddaughter. Helen took fabric from underneath a ruffle and made an inset down the front of the bodice and realigned the buttons so the dress would fit a more modern figure. In 1976, Nora's great granddaughter, Camille Curtis, wore the dress for a BYU Bridal fashion show featuring wedding gowns worn by local prominent women. Early in the 1980's Helen Ream Bateman donated the dress to BYU to preserve it for generations to come.

next day: *Will go to Soda this week and if I can arrange, may get off sooner than I counted on....I had quite a bad night last night, but feel better this morning....Have you heard from L.B. lately?*

On November 4, 1931 he wrote again. Nora had been in surgery, apparently a hernia repair. *Was glad to get Milton's message telling that you were through the operation and came out OK. I am glad it is over and hope you have no bad effects and get well quickly. I feel assured that you will with as many friends...and as good care as can be had.... (Rodney) working on gates in Oakey's field.... (I) suppose you will be out of the hospital before a week and will go to Milton's and Helen's home....It will be so nice to get round without having to wear that big belt and you sure will feel much better.* Will had borrowed an envelope for this letter from Nora's stationary. It had been preprinted with "Mrs. N.E.C. Ream, Dingle, Idaho" as the return address, and on the reverse was a logo for Spirella Corsets, evidence of her earlier work as a corset salesperson.

On Thursday, November 31, 1931 Will wrote to Nora again. Before I quote the letter, let me describe that stationary. Will often selected for letter writing whatever was at hand. This letter was written on stationary of the Union Fire Insurance Company of Lincoln Nebraska, which had been personalized for *W.D. Ream, Resident Agent, Pacific Agency C., Inc., General Agent, Boise, Idaho.* So, at some point, Will had sold fire insurance. Here's the letter. *My Dear Nora, Telegram from (Milton) yesterday was gladly received. We were all sorry you were sick, but getting along fine. I am hoping you are quite well out of the effects of the operation by the time this gets to you.* He was doing the dishes, since Norma and Denise were at Mamie's, washing. *You will soon be gone a month. Don't time fly?* There followed much local gossip.

Nora was still in San Leandro in December, for she saved a letter she received from a Long Beach friend at that address, but was receiving mail from Lydia at her Long Beach home by January 17, 1932. I suspect had Will returned to Long Beach as well, and that the two were together there with Ida's family for Christmas. I believe that they lived together in Long Beach for over a year after that, probably the longest time since her move there 14 years earlier.

Beulah and Doug with Will and Milton

That spring Will was in San Francisco for the graduation of Beulah and Douglas from medical school. They both signed up for internships in California. On June 2, 1932 Milton and Helen had their first child, Susan. I suspect Will and Nora were there for that event as well.

Then Nora had another surgery. I know none of the details but must rely on a letter written to her by Will on September 23, 1932 from Long Beach to Milton's house in San Leandro. *My Dear Nora, I was disappointed when I learned you were not coming Wednesday morning. I had two disappointments. First, that you were coming and*

so soon after your operation. We had all arrangements made to meet you at L.A., so the second disappointment, which was a good one. We were thinking you were coming too soon and the delay seemed the right thing to do. Then the surprise about your last operation. Beulah said you were a brick and so you are. Now when you come I hope we have another surprise and that is this: that you are well, looking fine, and feeling good....Beulah got us out of bed at 12:30 last night to say good-bye and (I) sure appreciated it. She was on her way to the Philippines for what was then called an internship in obstetrics. Fabian had returned there with his wife Ruth and was setting up a commercial bus system. *Jean* (Wesley's oldest son) *is doing well at school and in the band....Well, Wednesday next we will see you in L.A. and I hope feeling fine.*

On October 6th, Sybil Hopkins wrote to Nora wishing a speedy recovery and requesting Beulah's address in the Philippines. On November 7th, Nora received a note from Dr. George W. Pierce, M.D. about her eye being better. I suspect this is a clue to the surgery as well as who her doctor had been.

Her sister Roxie wrote to her from Salt Lake City and her sister-in-law Ruth sent Nora a photo of Ozro's grave marker that November.

On December 5, 1932 Nora received a final notice from Pacific States Savings of a past due payment, probably signaling issues on her Gaviota home mortgage. There was a series of communications from them through August of 1933. On August 4th, Nora sent word to a Mr. Collard, likely current or former boarder, *Please bring the $65 for August, great need.*

On February 11, 1933 Fabian wrote to Will from San Pablo, Philippines, *Beulah seems to be doing well....She has made some good contacts that will help her when and if she starts out on our own. She takes the examination next week. We have extended our business...absorbing two competing companies. It gives us about 1,500,000 bus miles more each month...operating 150 busses....A practical monopoly on land transportation in a district with a million people...but no one has money to ride.*

On March 15, 1933 Jean, who was attending school in California, wrote an excited letter about the devastating earthquake in Long Beach that killed 120 people and injured him and his grandparents. The fireplace mantle in the home on Gaviota Avenue had fallen on both Will and Nora, and Jean had heroically lifted it off. Luckily their injuries were relatively mild and they were already doing better. They had been forced to live out in the yard temporarily while the authorities cleared houses for use. As Jean was writing, they were still terrified by many scary aftershocks and were cooking over a campfire because the gas lines had been turned off.

Will and Nora in yard after earthquake

Rickie and Jean 1933

Jean came home to Dingle after his school was out. Will was planning to go to the ranch for the summer, so they went together on the train. Wesley came down to Salt Lake City to pick them up and drove them in his car back to Dingle to save the additional train fare.

On June 23, 1933 Will was back in Dingle and writing to Nora in in Long Beach. *This afternoon K.D. put a tongue in the trailer and a box on it and we went down through the home place and over Quayles to the Ocean Wave through the Larson and Murkley places and looked at the hay. It sure is a crop and needs cutting right now....The drive was fine but when we crossed hills and ditches I sometimes got a jerk on my hip and side that made me yell....When I got back I was tired and my side and hip hurt a plenty. I walked from the shed to house, laid on bed, and slept till nine oclock....Well, K.D. has some money that he will send you soon to come up on. He wants to see you and so do the rest but money is too scarce to even think of let alone to get. I have a bigger question here I dreamed of and it is going to take some time to handle it, too big to mention in a letter, and a big subject to talk of when you get here.* I wonder what that might have been. Was he hoping to move Nora back to Dingle?

Will wrote again on July 18th. He confessed that he had written too few letters, but had been very busy. He gave much news about their Dingle boys and their farming. Will had been once to Lava Hot Springs again as well as to Fish Haven and Paris, taking many short trips. Dora Crockett Nixon came and took him to town for dinner. *Held her baby on her lap and drove, came all alone. They wanted me to go to church, but (I) declined. They all went but Dora. She and Mildred* (her seven year old daughter) *brought me home, put the baby to sleep first.* After Stella's death in Long Beach, I think Willie Crockett had moved in with their daughter Dora and her family in Montpelier.

Donald, Dora, and Willie Crockett ca. 1927

Wesley wrote an apology to Nora. Evidently he had paid Will for something with a check that bounced when Nora tried to deposit it. On July 26th he wrote, *Sorry that my check to Dad was not good and that you had to pay it. I can't figure out how I made the mistake....Here is one to you and there is enough there now to cover it. Money is very scarce though. I just sent Helen to Milton's.* Wesley's daughter Helen, who was only 13 years old, went to San Leandro for a whole year to Milton's house, helping her Aunt Helen to tend little Susan and attending school, giving Wesley one fewer mouth to feed. *She should have arrived last night at 10:30. (Mitchel) and I are going to get no crop at Pine Springs this*

year. Fall wheat winter killed and spring grain did not come up. I do not know what to do with my pigs. I sold 40 but have that many more left beside the old ones. Times were really tough for everyone. *M.A. and I and Jean are stacking Dad's hay.*

Nora answered on July 30, 1933. *I got your letter yesterday enclosing the $10....feel sorry to take the money when you need it yourself so much. I never saw such hard times myself as now. Of course I have seen times I never had any money but was on the ranch where we could go on anyway—and we had a credit. Now I am making payments on a place. The loan companies are cold blooded and my renter can't pay me. If he could pay me I could meet my bills. That is the way it goes....I had hoped I could come home this year to see you all but it does not look now like there is much chance...I am afraid I would lose the place I am paying on. I just have to keep after my renter and keep begging my creditor for time....I am glad you let Helen go stay with Milton and Helen....If you want Jean to come back here next fell we will do all we can for him... I hope better times come for all of us, but if we can all keep well, that is the main thing.*

Will wrote on July 27th of his trip with Rodney to Greasewood Island to look for *hoppers.* Rodney was going to build a trap to gather them for turkey feed—he thought the grasshoppers would be better for them than grain. They were so thick at Quayles,' that they had to quit mowing with the tractor. He coaxed Nora to make the trip to Idaho. *Well it will pay you to take a run up if you can only stay a short time. It will do you a lot of good to see the old place and the kiddies....K.D. is sending you a few dollars to come on. The kid wants to see you and it looks like you should come.*

Four days later Kenneth wrote to Nora, probably at the urging of Will. *Dad feels kinda punk at times but at others feels good and gets out and works a little....I am sending you fifteen ($15.00) to come up on and hope to see you soon. It would be best to wait until after the middle of August when it will not be so hot...* Will added to the letter with some specific legal advice to Nora on an issue she was planning to write the governor about. Then, *KD would like you to come and see him and I think it will do him good. Everyone here would like to see you and a couple of weeks would be nice and money well spent I think. To know how things are going is worth our while. Everyone has their back to the wall and fighting hard.*

Despite all Will's coaxing and the gift from Kenneth, I don't think Nora actually came to Dingle. Will wrote again to Long Beach on August 11th, enclosing a letter that he had received from Beulah. He said he had taken the M. Bell (whatever that is) last night and was feeling pretty good. His car wasn't running and wouldn't be fixed until evening, so he was writing. He hoped that she and Roxie were having a good time. *Keep it up, you're only young once.* He reminded her that Kenneth was hoping to see her.

Beulah's letter had been written four weeks earlier, arriving by slow boat. It was addressed to Will. She blamed her laziness in writing on the heat. *I didn't suffer any ill health but just completely lazy. I never have had time pass so quickly....By the time you get this I'll have only about 2½ months to go on my year's internship. I suppose you'll still be in Idaho, so I'm sending this there....F.D. is very much pleased at his new job and it seems that his*

new boss treats him with more consideration and intelligence. Fabian and family were moving to Baguio, a lovely resort in the mountains. There was a private school there for little Nora. Beulah would miss seeing them.

Will wrote on August 21, 1933. I think Nora may have been trying to get a mortgage on the Long Beach house...*Got both letters the same day. OK. Good. See to the Gaviota home just as soon as possible. It will go through, I think. Things look good at Spokane and I'm encouraged.* What was that? *Was up to G.H. Hall's yesterday. Mrs. Hall sends her love and regards to you and wants to see you when you get here.* The Halls were rancher friends from Geneva, about 14 miles east of Montpelier. *I am off to Montpelier right now. The Ocean Wave is in again so we are all getting busy. It's hell. But the fight is on too much to tell in a letter. It will keep till you get here....All's well so far but hard work is plenty....Say, here is a bunch of pictures. Look them over show to Mr. Prince and others and send to Beulah.*

Rodney's turkeys

On August 31 Will wrote enthusiastically about Rodney's 800 turkeys. He had built pens for them in the marshy areas about a mile west of the Peterson place where the grasshoppers were the thickest. It took him and Rodney five trips to transport them all there. They planned to kill half for Thanksgiving, a third for Christmas and the rest for January. *They are all disappointed at you not coming home. Am glad things are looking as good as they are. I am pretty sure the Co. will get the loan on your homestead property. Just try to see if you can't make the deal on 929 (Gaviota).* It was the most hay he had ever seen in Bear Lake, but no market for it. He planned to put it into cattle. *Well, I am out a lot, drive my car every day, but don't feel any too good now. I find an old cripple is out of place wherever he is or goes. There are some things that have to be done and I'm not sure that I'll make the grade. It seems a lone fight, but I know I am right and want to put it over.* On September 2, more on the farm, then, *well, you had better arrange to get home for a short stay. I think it will be worth your while....I will be needing you to sign papers for the refinancing here....See if you can't get here by the 10 or 15....I am glad you and Roxie have and are still having a nice time. A.O.L.* (Archie, Roxie's husband) *will soon be with you....Is Ida going to change her place and have Mrs. Choquette tend Rickie this year?...Where is she teaching this year? Tell me how her Lord and master is operating. It looks to me he will have to change round a little....His old graft is getting stale.* Will thought Ida should buy their house on Gaviota and pay it off. He didn't think Ida's husband would ever get a house for her.

Douglas wrote to Nora in Long Beach on September 6, 1933. *I hope you are successful with the loan, that things will be much easier for you soon. I suppose that you will not be going to Dingle now that it is fall? I wish I was able to finance the trip for you.*

On September 20th, Jean wrote to Nora. *I may not get down before the second semester. Thrashing for Uncle Kenneth.* His mother Mamie added: *Daddy Ream was here Sunday, did not get out of his car....Said he did not feel good and was going to bed.*

A week later, Will wrote again. He had loads of news about everyone in the family and in town. Mabel had joined the "Howling Mothers" choir as Mitchel liked to call them, and they were performing regularly at church. Will was still expecting Nora to arrive, perhaps before she received the letter he was writing. He was trying to sell his hay--had an offer for 400 tons at $4 per ton, but it had not sold yet. He had not yet given a thought to getting back to Long Beach, but his return ticket would be expiring October 25th, less than a month away. *It looks like if I get down you will have to come and get me, as I can't see a place to let go. I am going to put in the dam in the dredge ditch at the Murkley Lake about the 15th. Must get that done and everything else.*

Roxie wrote to Nora from Salt Lake nearly every month that fall and winter.

Despite Will's efforts, Nora never came to Bear Lake that year, and he evidently left in time to use his return ticket. Milton wrote to him in Long Beach on November 5th for his birthday. *Disappointed you didn't go to L.B. via our place. I only learned from a card Mamie sent to Helen. Did you have your operation? Took Helen Mae's tonsils out....Haven't been able to get her to part with the long hair but haven't given up hopes. She seems very happy to be here.*

It was a momentous month, and not just because Will and Nora finally got back together again. Roosevelt was elected. Hitler became chancellor of Germany. A notice came to Will from Largilliere Company, Bankers in Soda Springs: *Your note for $1882.52 matures Nov. 24, 1933.*

Jean wrote to Ida in November. He did not make it back to school that fall; he was herding sheep.

Jean with Helen, Hazel Dawn, and Mary Ida in background

His mother, Mamie, wrote to Will on November 23rd, that she was glad to hear that he had made it safely to Long Beach. *(Wesley) has heard from some of the loans...thinks he will hear from yours and the others before long. (It is) lonesome with Jean up to the ranch. He went up on the ninth. Will stay till it snows. Helen got her tonsils out (in San Leandro), just missed one day of school.*

From Long Beach, Will wrote this to Wesley on November 27, 1933. *Have not heard a word regarding the loan. Do you know anything about it? ...I am getting better (a little) every day. I am just thinking about the loan and debts and taxes. If you can give me any pointers I would be glad... A lot of begging, holdups and robberies going on...the grounds of Poly Hi cleared last week. $5,000,000 bonds voted but no sale so the building is going to be slow.*

Don't know if it would pay Jean to come down this year or not. Mama is not so well and taking care of Rickie is a little too much for her. She won't give up the job. She says she needs the money which she does but the question is can she stand it.

Nora was concerned that Jean had not returned to high school. She wrote on December 7th. *If you want Jean to come down for school he is perfectly welcome to come. The second semester starts early in Feb—I'll have to ask Ida....Dad gets around pretty good, for him. I think the summer up there did him good.*

Wesley wrote to Will and Nora in mid-December. Like all the rest of the Reams, he was doing all he could to stay above water. *I threw my right shoulder out last Thursday while hauling gravel on the road. I was lifting on a dump board when my left hand slipped and out went my shoulder. I put it back myself, but have had to do nearly everything since with my left hand. I saw a doctor and he said it was in alright, but that I should carry it in a sling for some time....We had one bid on the steers....I told them to go to ---. I expect to get $400 or $500 before spring but it has a way of hanging off. Several hundred that I should have had now, I will not have for weeks yet. The Home Loans are coming in pretty regular now. I have 15 accepted and 4 turned down so far. I have ten of fifteen to hear from yet. I will let you know as soon as I hear anything.* I think he was trying to sell refinance loans on commission to struggling families.

Mamie wrote to Will and Nora from Dingle a week later. She and Wesley were preparing to spend another Christmas in the leaking, unfinished basement of the house which the depression prevented them from finishing for about ten years. *Kenneth gave us a small tree. We are going to fix it the best we can and have as good a time we can have without money... (which) seems to be more scarce than ever. Wesley got work for five days and I wish he had not, for he hurt his arm. I'm glad you wrote about Jean. He wants to go down and if we can get any money I guess he will be going. Had a nice letter from Helen (Mae). She sure loves Susan.*

On January 16, 1934 Mamie wrote to Nora to thank her for the Christmas gifts she had sent. *We would like to have sent you something, but have not had much money. Wesley has had ten days' work. He bought coal and food. He sent Helen five dollars. Maybe Jean will be there and tell you more news soon. Wesley's arm still bothers him.*

Susan and Milton about 1934

Mabel wrote on January 23, 1934. *M.A. went to Chicago to the fair when he shipped the lambs to Omaha. He stopped in Chariton a day.*

Nora heard again from Pacific States Savings on her delinquent loan on February 8th.

Rodney wrote in February that he had plowed some of Will's property and wanted to lease it for crops. Wesley was still trying to make ends meet by selling loans to people with no money. In March he wrote to Nora, *We*

have had California here this year, earthquakes and all. Only two or three days that were below zero. I have had lots to do with the Farm Loan but have got no commissions yet. I have closed only three loans...out of about thirty that have been accepted.

Nora was back in the operating room again in March. Jean wrote this to his Grandmother Sirrine in Dingle for her birthday from Gaviota. *They are going to move Grandma (Nora) home tomorrow, but she'll need to be in bed for a while.* Jean had visited his Sirrine aunt, Ella Steele, in L.A., and also the La Brea tar pits and museum. *Uncle Douglas was here, said I would not recognize Helen, she is doing fine.*

Will sent Wesley a postcard on March 20th asking about sheep outlook, lambing, prospects for summer crops, seeding and watering. *How about my loan?*

On April 1, 1934 Leonard Feagans died in Burley. He was Will's brother-in-law, Elda's husband. Mitchel wrote to Will. *I got a wire from Elda last night that Leonard was dead* (at age 50). *He had got ptomaine[54] poisoning...I will drive up in the morning.*

Jean wrote to his parents again on April 8th. Nora had suffered a relapse. *(The) Dr. came, she is back on liquids.* Jean and Ida were staying up with her at night. *Grandpa is there.*

Mamie brought Nora and Will up to date on "Lin" Feagan. *Mitchel and Mabel went to Burley to the funeral of Uncle Leonard. The masons took charge and everything was lovely. Tell Jean we got his nice letter.* Wesley had been lambing for over a week and had 91 lambs; he was about 1/3 through. *Hope you are improving still and will soon be able to come up here.* Elda send a clipping of Leonard Feagan's obituary.

Likely out of concern for Nora's health, Roxie resumed writing every week. In May, Nora's ward members send a packet of individual notes about missing her. Dora Crockett sent a note of concern and a photo of her son, Paul. Nora heard from friends in Utah, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Alberta.

Will wrote to Wesley from Long Beach on April 24th. *Mama is doing well, will soon be OK. Sat up 2½ hr. today and improving each day and will be seeing you all this summer if all is well. Glad you are lambing good and How about the loan? Don't you think it is time it should be finished?*

On May 11th, Wesley responded. *We are through lambing and just finished shearing yesterday, and will take sheep to the hills today. I don't suppose we will have much of a crop on the irrigated ground this year. There is about five or six second feet in your ditch yet.* That was fortunate, for most of the ditches were dry.

Mamie's mother Sarah had written that month to another family member. *They have put all the water in the other ditches into the Dingle ditch to water the gardens...much trouble about the water—Wyoming is taking the water that belongs to Idaho. They have sent a committee up to Boise (Warren, Hyrum, and Alfred Sparks and others). Wesley came home so I went*

[54] Food poisoning.

home (I had been staying with Mamie). It is so lonely for Mamie and the girls (when he is at the ranch).

When Helen's school was out in San Leandro, she took the bus to Los Angeles to spend time with Jean and her grandparents before returning to Dingle. She and Jean sent Nora a postcard on their journey home from Long Beach to Dingle. *We got to Los Angeles at 1:30. Took a cab to the Mercer Hotel. It cost $.45. We had to run to catch the P.E.* (Pacific Express?)*....Walked around a little but there wasn't much to see. We will soon be on our way to Salt Lake. I had a very nice time at your place. I hope sometime I can come again....Kiss Rickie for me, Helen.*

By July, Will was once again in Dingle. He wrote to Nora on the 13th. *Dry and no signs of rain and things look tuff. Have been to Paris every day but yesterday and have not got things on a working basis. It is hard pulling up stream. I find conditions much worse than I expected and the Lord knows that was bad enough. I am moving around every day and I get very tired but am hoping I will harden to the job. Just beginning to make a little impression that I am to be considered in the transactions here on the place. I have waited just too long and have a lot against me, but will have to be up and doing now. Well the news is punk. The Crocketts are about the same. Will looks quite bad. His eyes are the worst and his speech is not so good, quite hard to understand and he walks much slower....W.W. is working in Paris for the government drafting and M.A. is doing field work.*

Will posted from Arcadia, Dingle on July 24th. *Ida and kids are leaving for L.B. in the morning. Would have gone Sunday but for the double holiday....We all wished you was here....These chances do not come so often. When Ida tells you about the old place I think you will come up and see for yourself. I think you will enjoy it....By the way, send me the news about the primaries so I can get my vote in and be all OK when the election comes in Nov. next. Am hoping the old folks' pension goes over OK.*[55]

On July 31, Will wrote that he was frustrated with the boys. Will and Mitchel both had government jobs and seemed to care little about ranching. Only Kenneth seemed to be putting in a good effort. Many details were given about the town and the farm. He ended with a joke (I think): *Tell all that enquires about me Hell Oh!*

I don't have any of the letters that Nora sent to Will in return. However, she wrote this to Wesley and Mamie on August 22nd, remembering their birthdays together. *Here it is your birthdays again* (they were turning 48)*. I thought I would be up there for them. I don't seem to be able to do anything that requires me to be up on my feet.* She was 71. *I hope to be with you next year. Will Jean be coming down in time for school?—it will start September 17. P.S. Helen left a little ribbon here. I'm putting it in with another one.*

[55] The Social Security Act was signed into law by President Roosevelt on August 14, 1935. Payroll deductions began January 1, 1937 and the law was declared constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court April 12, 1941.

Will probably returned to California in September, for that is when the letters between them again ceased.

They received an interesting Christmas letter from Beulah showing with her unique brand of humor how busy her practice in the Philippines had become. It was written by her R. N., Domingua Francisco. *Dr. Ream will be writing when she finds time. She is busy with home calls, office work, tea parties, speeches, surgeries, deliveries. She is the new medical director at Mary Johnston Hospital and has gained five pounds. Mr. and Mrs. Fabian Ream have a new baby boy on November 28, 1934.*

On December 8, 1934 Willie Crockett died of influenza in Montpelier age 66.

For the first five months of 1935 I have no letters written or received by either Nora or Will. Jean was in Long Beach going to school that winter. The following letter to his parents is proof that Will had not yet arrived by January 28th. He wrote that he was taking final exams, and then would go over to Ida's to work. He met Ida's maid, Doria Bailey. *She is a pretty brunette about twenty years old. Aunt Ida has her car, a 1928 Chevrolet. It is a nice looking and riding car. Aunt Ida is a good driver too.* Jean was making money for his school fees by doing yard work. *When is Grandpa coming down? Grandma would like to see him.*

I assume that it was not long that winter before Will arrived in Long Beach.

June 4, 1935 was the 52nd anniversary of their romantic first meeting. That day Nora wrote the poem quoted in full at the beginning of the chapter *The Romance.*[56] She was thinking ahead to their 50th wedding anniversary the coming November and planning for all of her children to attend the celebration.

On July 7th Mamie wrote to her own mother in Salt Lake, that Wesley's job in Paris was about to end. She was glad; there was plenty for him to do at home. I'm sure Will was relieved as well. By then, Nora had gone back to Berkeley. If Will went there with Nora, he didn't stay. He was in Dingle again.

Will around 1934

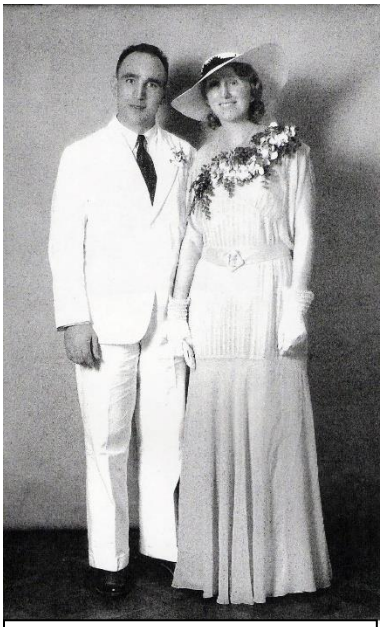
He wrote to Nora on July 8th. *I have been out to the Peterson place this morning. Came home for lunch and will not go out any more today. Will finish hoeing my young trees and a few rows of spuds. I feel pretty good after three days on the bum. After so many long years trying to accomplish the lake plan and get the south field under cultivation, I am in a fair way to get it done and I had to in the end do it myself. But I am satisfied and am more sure it is a paying proposition.* He was planning to drain Murkley Lake to dry the meadows for haying, the best crop ever grown on that place. He had been looking at the photo she sent and didn't think she looked as gay as before. Will was delighted with the plentiful water now supplied by the long disputed canal.

[56] Page 37.

Everything was growing and blooming. He wanted her to come and see it, certain that she could make the trip without a setback. *But be sure before you try it.*

On July 19th Will wrote that *Beulah offers you and me (a trip) to the Philippines and a nurse to go along. Now it is out of the question for me to accept it. But it would be nice for you to go. If Mrs. Johnson made it, I see no reason you cannot do as well as they. Think it over and select one that can go with you and go. I really think it would be a successful trip for you, and Beulah would come home with you.*

He wrote again on July 23rd. *Mitchel has bought the old Norton Place. It looks like he made a good bargain if he can make the grade. That is to be seen yet. I hope he does. Well, you will see him when you get here. I feel you have started and you will come. We all are looking for you. I feel sure Milton will put you in shape.* He was still trying.


Kenneth and Ruth

On the 28th he said that he was so busy with haying he could not promise very long letters for a while and had discontinued writing to anyone else. *It is hard to get back into the old harness and down to the same old grind I did and could stand 30 years ago. But I am here and stuck, and I mean stuck.*

On July 29, 1935 Nora and Will's youngest child Kenneth married Ruth Genella Quale in Manila, Philippines. Ruth had been a friend of Beulah's in nursing school, and had met Kenneth in Long Beach. Kenneth wrote to them that he planned to stay there at least a year--there were plenty of opportunities for him there.

Wesley wrote to Nora on August 4th. *Stacking hay, beginning to rain. Dad told me that you were not feeling well and that you were returning to Long Beach (from Berkeley).* From Mamie: *We had hoped to see you this summer.*

Will was having more health breakdowns to slow his work. He hurt his side lifting and sawing quaking aspen logs for the fence at the Murkley place and wrote that his rupture had been badly down all the time. He was hoping to last long enough to see the haying through. He now conceded that Nora might be better off not coming out to Dingle, though he felt she would be able to recover once she got home to Long Beach. For his part, *if I am not in the hospital and can go at all, I will be in L.B.* for their anniversary. *Things are not going as good as they should. I don't see the future as clear as I did two years ago....Well, I can only make the best out of the stuff I've got.* Will had heard from Kenneth; he thought he sounded a little homesick.

Ida was missing Nora, too. She wrote Nora from Long Beach on August 12th, that she was glad Milton and Helen gotten her some decent teeth. *You sure needed them.* The letter contained updates on the yard and Ida's kids.

On August 14th Nora explained from Berkley to Mamie and Wesley that she was delaying her return to Long Beach. It does not sound to me like she had even considered going to Bear Lake, despite Will's efforts. *I decided to stay here instead of returning to Long Beach. My blood pressure is so high and the boys can take care of me here. They got busy and got it down to 170. Our golden wedding anniversary is next November 11. I wish we could all be together on that day. That is of course impossible—those who are across the water (Philippines) couldn't make it. It is out of the question for me to come to Bear Lake, so it looks to me that Long Beach would be the only place. I've written Dad and told him to think it over and talk to all the rest up there and see what can be done. Wouldn't it be just terrible if Dad and I couldn't be together on that day and as many of the rest of you that could possibly make it?*

On August 14, 1935 President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act.

On the August 24th Will was writing to Nora. He had suffered another physical setback, so was catching up on letters. He had distributed the fancy bedspreads that Beulah had shipped to him from the Philippines for the Dingle Ream families. Douglas' wife Lucille had visited along with their son Forrest, who had grown and seemed a nice fellow, *but his mother's teachings has its effect and he shows it. But why should I care and I don't. <u>That</u> is <u>that</u>. Well, (Rodney) sent you a nice three month old Tom (turkey) yesterday and expressed it to Doug's place. I hope you receive it OK....would have sent it to Milton's. I thought you would be at Doug's...so there it went.* He hoped Milton would send more of the little red pills. They were a laxative and seemed to be very good for him. His rupture was getting bigger all the time. He still planned on returning on November 11th for the planned golden wedding celebration, if only for a short time. *Just waited two years too long before taking hold of the reins. I know I should have done so before but did not, so the rent got bigger till now it is quite a big hole to stop.* It seems to me that he regretted having turned things over to his boys and was trying to rescue his project.

Milton in 1935

On August 29th, Will wrote to Nora that he had another fall, which was not serious, but would cost him another day's work. He was anxious to get a lot of ditching done on the south place and also the Oakey, but didn't think he would work on the old place next year, since he needed to prove up on the Murkley Lake land. If he had dreamed two years ago that he would need to do this work, he would never have spent all that time in California. He would have done it then, and would not have needed to do it now. But, he was still planning to start for Long Beach about the middle of September. Regarding the big event, the golden wedding anniversary, *W.W. and M.A. are going to try and get enough money to come but J.R. can't come, so he told me yesterday, on account of Norma. She expects to be sick* (in labor) *just about that time and he can't leave. Just the three of us may get there that will be from this part of the woods.* John Rodney Ream Jr. (Jack) was born in Dingle on November 17, 1935.

Still not back to work the next day, Will had a lot of time to think and to reflect. Then he sat down and wrote an emotional outpouring to his physician son Milton that I am going to quote here nearly in its entirety, for it seems to summarize his predicament and feelings about the ranch in a way that is only hinted at in most of his communications.

Dingle, Friday second day of the County Fair. August 20, 1935

M. P. R. (Milton Parke Ream)

Well Bill, (he often called Milton Bill)

Just a few minutes and I'll say a few words. Had a day off yesterday and so far will not go to the field till after noon. Am taking (Wesley) to Montpelier so he can go to the sheep camp near Soda to let the herder come home for a few days. Well, the mowers came home last night and should have been mowing on second crop of Lucerne--to do it tomorrow. But the wives had to have today at the fair, so Sunday they will mow and by Tuesday will have all done here, then 100 or more tons for (Rodney), and then through. Then the ditches on South Place. First get my cattle in field and all moving right. Say, I'm kind of liking the job of seeing to the running (of) the old place. But it is not going to last for long I am afraid.

I want to tell you that the right knee went bad for two days. But by giving it stringent treatment I've got it back where I can use it well again. Have chased the trouble round all over my body and when it locates, I get on the move as soon as I can. Sometimes one or two treatments does the job and when it get back to its old place it takes more to do it. For over a month it has been knocking round my heart. So this morning I gave it a treatment and am feeling much better. You see since I had the fall and caved in the old cage over the heart, and by the way the place where it broke loose from the sternum, it has not done a good job tightening up and the left side has quite a cave in and makes a good place for the rheumatism to locate. If I succeed getting it out of there I'll keep it going. I can draw my left knee up so I can rub it while laying on my back and in walking I can use my left leg quite natural. Non-use for so long has made it quite useless and for that reason I took a bad fall the other day. But as I get over the lameness it leaves me to move it more freely and if the strength comes as it has done in other places, I be the gainer by the fall. It put me in the dumps for a day as I was so lame and sore. I feel better and if I do as well today, by Monday I'll just be moving on again looking after things. J.R. will be thrashing before September 15th and I am seeing to my interest in person and am taking your advice "pushing the pencil for Bill."

We expect round 4,000 bushels and I sure need it in my business. (Wesley and Mitchel) said the other day they were willing to let anyone take the place for five years if they would pay taxes and other expenses. (Kenneth) is married and won't be here to help me and now is the time if you and J.R. want to do something as you were talking to me about. You can think it over and see us at L.B. on the 11th November and arrange. I guess W.W. and M.A. and I will be there. But J. R. will not, as he can't leave at that time for he and Norma are expecting an increase in the family and can't leave. So he told me just lately. You see when I came home I found nearly $5,000 in the hole. I have done pretty good and am getting on very well. Getting

the damned dairy cattle off the place was the big job. But they have got to go and I've got to get all I can, so Bill will have to be here till it is finished as I am not taking anyone's advice any more on this question and <u>that</u> is <u>that</u>. I have this to say whether I live or die, is damn such stuff on this ranch, to have to clean up such a deal when all the time I objected to it. This is the fourth time, and none of them endorsed this plan by me.

Well, J.R. just came with a broken roller on the binder and he will take W.W. and I'll not have to go, so I'll fill the page and tell some more nonsense, but now is the time to let you know just how things are going and the standing position of the ranch and things concerning it. First place there is 20,000 ft. of lumber at the mill to be sawed. 7,000 ft. paid for sawing and 13,000 ft. to be paid at $7.50 per thousand for sawing, a good size job for a young well man to take care of, and a month ditching on the south place that must be done this fall besides assessment work that is behind schedule time. Two or three hundred ton more of hay that should and ought to be put up. Water going out on south place in new ditches I have had made this summer and that is a big job for a young man and just think--no ready money and the condition I am in. Fall and winter coming on and sheds to be built and repair and worst of all, I can't hit the ball and do a good day's work of 10-15 or 20 hours a day as I used to do. The south place is the best and most paying of the three divisions of the place and just stop and think I am soon to see my 76th birthday. In looking back to the time when you told me I should be pushing the pencil. Had I taken the stand I took a little over a year ago, I sure would have been ahead several hundreds of $ and even with the board. I see I counted on things that did not come my way and <u>that</u> is <u>that</u>. And now I am only wanting the time and I'll come ahead. I have now got the place where it will go and make good but it must be worked out in my plan, and no more cattle building. The Murkley water system is going to be more grand than I imagined it to be. Well a lot of writing and not much said, so will quit and if it comes again to tell you more will make it a little more clear. Give my love to Helen and little Sue and same to you. Dad. W.D. Ream.

He enclosed with Milton's letter another for Nora. *Good to know you are enjoying your...fine new set of teeth and I hope they prove the best you have ever had and your legs and (blood) pressure keeps on mending till you are in condition to make the century mark if you so desire, and it seems you will, at least I feel that way....I get quite a lot of ideas about things and some very queer ones, but it all has to pass for now at least.*

Beulah Lee Choquette

Ida wrote Nora on August 30, surprised that Nora was not yet home to Gaviota Avenue. Ida had just spent every spare moment getting the house ready for her, and Jean would be arriving soon for school. She had received a nice letter from Kenneth's new wife Ruth, who seemed very much in love with him. He had received a raise in salary and they were living in a little house in the woods. Ida's baby Beulah Lee had gotten sick from her whooping cough shot. Ida was glad that Nora's legs and mouth were on the mend. Two weeks later she wrote again. *Nice*

of Helen to take such good care of you....Looks like Beulah and Milton turned out to be your best children after all.

Jean was not the only grandchild coming to Nora's for school. Mitchel wrote on September 2nd, *Thanks for taking care of* his daughter *Lois last year....Is it OK for her come down this year?* He himself had not been down for a visit the last two years but hoped to make it for the November celebration.

Will wrote Nora a very sad and discouraged letter at the end of September. Possibly in response to Will's letter to him, Milton had made a visit to Dingle in the company of some of his friends, but it passed without Will getting the opportunity he had hoped for to bond with his son. *Had a lot of things to talk about and wanted to show him things. It seems to me he gave his Daddy Swensen more of a visit than I....I sure counted on many things I had in mind to do. It makes me feel like you say you do when you can't (find) an article when you want and keep looking and worrying about it till you do find it. Well in this case the opportunity has passed, and it is up to me to forget it. I sure was disappointed.* Will was feeling as if he were on a treadmill, never catching up, recalling a time in his boyhood when he gathered and sold nuts, but never made expenses. *Just (the) same old grind and the outlook poorer and I do not expect to reap any benefit from what I will be doing. It will be wholly for the good of others. This is not a willing deed, but a force. But it must be done and that is that. Rodney and I were talking today and he said no one wanted to stay on the place, that there was inducement for him and he counted on quitting most any time. He has done well and so have all of the boys that have run it, as I figure he will clear eight to ten thousand dollars. But Bill* (Will) *goes over half that in the hole.*

Jean had headed off for Long Beach without saying goodbye to Will. Lois had decided not to go.

Will did not get away by mid-September as he had hoped, maybe because Nora had not yet left San Leandro. He wrote to her on September 26th. *It seems strange that Jean has not written you. He has written home several times. I got a letter from him why he did not see me before he went. Rodney is going to S.L to a turkey meeting for a day or two....He has gained quite a reputation for a turkey man. He sure knows his onions and keeps it to himself. It seems nice that Beulah will soon be home. (Kenneth) and wife said they would be here next year for harvest. (Wish he were here now.) I just don't see how I can see things through this winter. Milton...wrote me he was coming to see me and I counted on a lot. There was such a lot I wanted to talk to him about....How long before you think of going to L. B? And just how are your legs? Did you get your last (government) check?* The letter was postmarked in Salt Lake City. Will was on his way to Long Beach.

When Jean arrived in Long Beach the house on Gaviota was empty. Nora was still in San Leandro. He wrote to her on September 27, 1935. *Sorry you had the hemorrhage. Hoping that you would be down here before long. I have been trying to fix the place up nice. You needn't worry about me because I can take care of myself.* He was cooking for himself, watering, mowing the lawn, trimming the flowers and bushes. He had signed up for 18½

credits in school. *Can ride the bus to school but must hitchhike home.* Jean was now 20 years old.

The hemorrhage was a new problem and a setback. Ida wrote that she planned to come up from Long Beach but had changed her mind when she received a letter from Milton. She wrote on October 3rd. *Glad you are better at last. Milton said you would soon be home.*

I don't know exactly when Nora was back home in Long Beach, but by November 8th Wesley and Mamie had arrived there. Their 15 year old daughter Helen had sent them a postcard from Dingle that day addressed to Gaviota Avenue. They had left her in charge of their place and her two younger sisters, and Mamie's mother had come up from Salt Lake to help. Wesley and Mamie were gone for a month. Helen sent them a letter the next day from school. *I am in English now. We have been getting along fine....Ruth Nate got married. Ruby (Cliff's oldest sister) fell and broke her hip in two places....In hospital at Soda Springs. Tell Ricky and everybody down there hello. I've got to get busy now.*

The studio portrait on the right of Will and Nora was taken to commemorate their golden wedding anniversary. I have no letters from the attendees to Will and Nora's 50th anniversary celebration. What I know is limited to the available photographs. I suspect

From left: Will, Isabelle Crockett, Wesley, Mamie, Mitchel, Guy Crockett, Lucile, Douglas, George Crockett, Milton, Nora. The boys are Forrest Ream and Rickey Choquette.

that Ida was the photographer, since I think she attended, but was not in the group photos. It must have been a disappointment to Nora that only five of the ten Ream children were present. Rodney was home in Dingle with Norma for the birth of Jack. Milton's wife Helen was in her eighth month of pregnancy, and probably also stayed home. Beulah and Fabian and Kenneth with their two Ruths were in the Philippines. And, of course, Lee had died in 1918. Nora's brother George and his wife Isabelle came from Preston and so did their son Guy, who lived in the Long Beach area, but apparently no other siblings of Will or Nora were there.

Beulah barely missed the celebration. She returned to the United States by steamship sometime that December and soon joined Douglas and Milton in the bay area to practice medicine.

On January 6, 1936 Milton and Helen's second child Miltie was born.

Nora wrote to Wesley and Mamie on January 14th. *I've been walking six blocks every morning for a week. It seems good to do it....Your last letters to Jean sounded like it was awful cold. I wish you could all be down here. We had a nice visit with Beulah, but not long enough. We surely miss her again. Jean is well.*

And three days later Will wrote to *Wesley and Folks: How is all the stock of all kinds coming and the market on same? Are they still paying on wheat acreage? I have not received my last two checks. Tell me anything pertaining to the water company. B. has come and gone to the bay locality. I think she is counting on a return to the P.I. again. She will see you all (next summer) before returning. Let's try all of us to show them (she and Ida) a good time.*

That year brought a disastrous winter in Dingle, at least for Wesley's family. Mamie wrote on February 6, 1936*. We have only enough coal to last two weeks....It is leaking in here—I wish we had the top over (the basement house). I am glad we have plenty of flour and milk and cream. Our meat is gone but we are going to kill another pig soon. Wesley measured 22 inches of snow.*

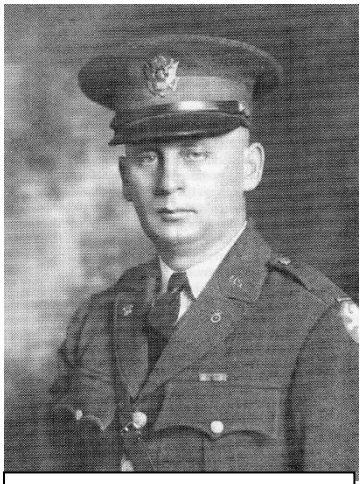
Will did not go back to Dingle that winter. On February 19th he wrote a postcard to Nora from San Leandro. He must have been there at least a couple days, since he was writing in answer to a letter from her. *Your letter and M.A.'s came this morning. M.P. and J.R. brought in a few moments ago. B + N + D and Baby are out shopping just ½ hr. we go to M.P's for D. Just talked on phone to (Milton's) Helen. We all will be there for dinner at 1:30. All well in our bunch. Stood trip fine got in on time OK. All busy. Was at Doug's yesterday. All OK.* Evidently Rodney and Norma had come from Dingle with their baby and Will had gone up to see them. "B" was probably Beulah. He was still there on March 10th.

On March 21, 1936 Nora wrote a sweet letter to Mamie and Wesley from Long Beach. *I'll always remember this date. My heart and thots are with you. I seem to live over again that trip and the following days.* She was remembering the tragic death of their son Lane, who had died of appendicitis five years earlier. *I think of the song "Count Your Many Blessings"*

and your mother's sweet voice, Mamie, singing it as she sang it to my sister Mary when she was sick.

Mamie returned Nora's letter nine days later and could not help but describe the trouble they were having. *We're busy....Every room is leaking and the worst of it is it is running down the walls and we can't catch it but have to wipe it up and even shovel it with the scoop and have carried tubs and tubs and buckets and buckets only to start over again soon. Helen got two tubs of ice she chopped off the floor and wall in the wash room...and it is so cold it almost makes me sick. What makes it worse is that Wesley is worn out with the lambs. He is trying to take care of them alone....He hasn't had his clothes off for five days and nights and wet most of the time. The new lambs would freeze to death in just a few minutes if not take care of them. He is about half through....Thank you for your lovely letter on the 21st. Yes that is a day that we can never forget and I shall always remember your visits. They did me so much good.* Wesley measured the snow. It was two feet deep on the level.

Kenneth's new wife Ruth wrote on April 1st to Ida from Baguio. They were good friends, and fellow schoolteachers. *Ken is working very hard, long hours. Enjoyed visits from Sam* (Beulah's future husband) *and from Fabian.... (My folks) saw Beulah and your Dad and are very much pleased with them.*


Henderson Wilcox "Sam" Allen

On April 2nd Lois wrote to Nora from Portland, Oregon to Nora. She had decided to go there for high school instead of Long Beach.

Evidently Nora made her way to San Leandro at some point to join Will, but she was back in Long Beach when Rodney's wife Norma wrote to her on April 24th. In the letter, Norma implied that Nora had been in the bay area to see Douglas and Lucille's baby David William Ream, who had been born March 27th.

But Will was still in San Leandro. He wrote to Nora the same day that Norma did, on Beulah's office stationary. He had heard that spring had finally broken in Dingle—Beulah had called Mitchel on the telephone. The doctors were all busy. He was proud that Beulah had done two appendectomies that week. It looked to him like they were making a good bunch of money. *As for me, about the same. I am getting an apparatus made out of band saw steel, which looks like it will do just what I have been wanting....Am getting some treatments and it also seems is helping. I soon will be laying my plans for a move. All depends on the truss and how I get along.*

By May 13, Will was in Dingle and sounded happy. *I am back to the place where all the kids were born after a little over six months away, and everything looks much the same. All had a good lambing....I suppose you will be coming up with the rest next month. I stopped off at Lava and had a bath. My rheumatism got bad in my right knee and I'm afraid it is going to come back.* He was spending a lot of time at Lava Hot Springs. He wrote to Nora from there

twice more before May ended. He was in good spirits and had spent more time at Lava than at the ranch. Apparently he was able to travel most of the way back and forth by bus. He said he was preparing the house for her to visit.

Will was back at the ranch on June 6th. Apparently he had appropriated a bundle of Beulah's office letterhead, for all of his letters that summer were written on it. He had not yet done a bit of work. He had looked for a hired man, but with the WPA available, no one wanted to do farm labor. Everything was green and growing. Rodney was building more turkey sheds and had his flock up to 3,000 birds and was shooting for 4,000. It was getting hard for Will to find the energy to pitch into work as he had done the year before. Ida wrote that she and Beulah would be coming to Dingle, but only for about 10 days.

He wrote again on June 18th. Jean had arrived home from school in Long Beach unannounced to surprise his dad, and Lois was home from Oregon.

From a letter that Wesley wrote to Mamie on July 4th we learn that he expected Ida and Beulah to be arriving in just a few days.

Will wrote on July 11th that he had still done little to prepare the house for Nora's visit, not even the laundry. His daughters-in-law said they would do it for him if he would bring it, but he had not yet gotten his old *puddle jumper* fixed up enough to run. He owned a model T Ford. He felt he had no ambition, wasn't even making the bed, and he expected Nora in a fortnight. He couldn't find his briefcase and papers. If Nora found it, he wanted her to bring it, also the tea he got from Dr. Swan and the box of Exlax. *The trip will be a nice one and I believe you will enjoy it OK. Air conditioned, no dust, pillows, meals cheap. Breakfast 25 cents....This will make it very comfortable and a sick person should get well. I will still be looking to see you round the 23 or 24 (of this month.)*

Kenneth wrote to Nora on July 17th from San Pablo, P.I. He and Ruth were planning to leave the islands on July 25th and be in Long Beach August 25th.

On July 18th Will wrote to Nora that he expected she was leaving Salt Lake and on her way home, and hoped she had a good trip all around. I have no idea why she should have been in Salt Lake. On the 21st he wrote, *Expecting word from you today. Have been looking for it. No news is good news, so they say. Beulah is in San Leandro today. My, you folks do fly around like anything.* Whatever the reason Nora was in Salt Lake, it must have involved Beulah, too. I wonder if one of her Crockett relatives had died.

Will's next letter was written August 11th, addressed to Long Beach. *Got your last letter, also the pillow slips...just took the rag off, (that) I had on when you were here. Was so dirty and the sheets the same. Norma washes tomorrow....Well the latest news is Mrs. Nielson died since you were here just a few days ago, anemia, I think was the cause.*

It appears that Nora actually came to Dingle from Long Beach and then was gone again before August 11. There was a gap of about two weeks in their letters during that period, and this photo seems to be the proof. Beulah and Kenneth were both there as well. Nora wrote her annual birthday letter to Wesley and Mamie on August 19th. *I think the trip up there did me good. I sleep better…Beulah Lee asks often about Jean.*

Back: Mitchel, Wesley, Beulah, Douglas Center: Will, Nora, Kenneth Front: Ida, Milton, Rodney

She had gone home to Long Beach via the Bay Area, probably traveling with some of her children. On August 20th she wrote this to Wesley and Mamie. *Just got back from a trip to Frisco.* She remembered the hard winters she experienced years ago. *It is hard on the women folks in the house and harder on the men folks out in the storm and cold. I think just such things as that is what crippled or laid the foundation for Dad's condition today....Dad is taking treatments and I think they are doing him good. He looks well. Jean kept batch while we were gone. He had everything looking nice when we got back.*

Fabian wrote to Nora on August 23rd from Baguio. *Kenneth left here nearly a month ago. He and his young wife never got away from most Americanized part of the islands, like a Chinese visitor staying his whole time in America in Chinatown.* Fabian wrote that he felt he was about due for a full set of false teeth.

Will's next letter to Nora was postmarked September 26, 1936 in Montpelier. He had received several from her since he last wrote. Things were very busy. Kenneth was now working for him, but also for Mitchel and Rodney. *Leaves me in a box, same as ever. (Fabian) sent me $50, same as you, but I just had to spend it as usual, so no Xmas money....Looks like snow, and W.W. has not cut his grain at Pine Springs—is out surveying and letting $1,500 crop go....The trees we planted 40 years ago or longer are most gone and (they) that are left are no good. Time marches on. There comes a change and to all appearances the end.*

October 16, 1936 Will wrote, *All summer I am not in a condition to be out. Just could not cut the mustard. W.W. was in this afternoon. He will finish cutting grain....I have had my 12th fall and it sure was a good one,...had my legs strapped close together so I could not move. I reached down got the chair and tried to stop it but was not strong enough so it gave me a jerk from behind as it went round so I got a fall that counted. Have not recovered yet. Just rested a few moments listening to a campaign talk. Things are getting hot up here. Just now Roosevelt is going to have a hard time to win if he does. K.D. and Jean are coming down (to Long Beach).*

According to the Bear Lake County Clerk's office, on October 28, 1936 Will and Nora Ream transferred property to W.W. Ream for the consideration of one dollar. Will was continuing to distribute his property.

On October 29th Nora wrote, *I hope you are having a nice enjoyable birthday. I wish I were with you or that you were here with me. I hope you will be here for our wedding anniversary on Nov. 11. Hope you have gotten over your fall....Be very careful.* But on their anniversary Will was still in Dingle. He wrote, *W.W. has just got men to head his grain.* Will wrote about hard times in Bear Lake. *Boys have done nothing in getting the place divided. It looks to me they may procrastinate too long.* There was a lot more about work, but he did not mention their anniversary. I think he plain forgot.

Beulah, Nora, Will, and Ida, spring of 1936

But he probably left shortly thereafter for Long Beach, for there were no more letters between them until the following June. The Bear Lake county clerk's office recorded two more land transfers. There was a grant from Will to Mitchel on January 9, 1937 grants to both Mitchel and Wesley on January 24th. Perhaps the papers had been prepared by Will before he left.

Will's younger sister Anna Sadora Ream Cain died in Iowa May 20, 1937. I have no evidence that Will attended her funeral. But he may have been back in Idaho by then. He wrote to Nora from Dingle on June 8th. He expected that Kenneth would be with her soon to fill her in on all the news, so Will would mention only what had happened since Kenneth left Dingle. Douglas and his three kids were staying with Will. They went to the cemetery, where Doug did some work. Doug was planning to go from there to Seattle to visit Will's sister, Maud. They were expecting Nora to arrive in Dingle by June 15th. I wonder whether Kenneth was planning to bring her back in his car.

She came, but did not stay very long. Will was writing to her again in Long Beach by July 22nd. He was having more setbacks, losing another battle over water. *I am not considering for next summer. It was sure a letdown for me. Don't feel like I (am) to consider anything anymore. The Murkley Lake is going over on the 19th of September, win or lose. Notice soon will be in the paper. The end of the game and I hate to lose out, but things will have to change soon or the game will be lost as I can't cut the mustard against the odds. Well I've sent for my truss....It's on the way. Hope it is OK, as I sure need it.* Kenneth and Ruth were garnering lumber for their house project.

Another property transaction was recorded on August 23rd. Title to Dingle land in Nora's name was transferred to Will. That day he wrote to her that Beulah had made a quick trip to Dingle from San Leandro. I assume that she was bringing Sam Allen up to meet the

family, for they were to be married the next month in Carson City, Nevada. She had met Sam in the Philippines. He had returned to the states to finalize a divorce from his previous marriage, and in October they would be returning to the islands together.

On September 7th Will wrote again. He wasn't happy with the new truss. He'd accomplished little since Nora had left. He was not sure that he could get to Milton's by the 29th as she had suggested. He wrote again on September 16th. Kenneth had been ailing and unable to work for several weeks but was now feeling better. He was expecting Beulah to return shortly after a trip to Portland, Spokane, and Boise. Her marriage was planned for September 22nd. He announced that he had bought a brand new electric range and was looking at a refrigerator. Maybe the boys had paid him for the property that he had transferred.

More property transactions were recorded. On September 23rd land was transferred to Rodney from Will.

I suppose that Will managed to make it to Milton's by the 29th, since there were no more letters. I know for sure that Nora was there, since she received mail in San Leandro from Long Beach in October. They were together in Long Beach by December.

On January 3, 1938 Nora and Will received a letter from Mabel, Mitchel's wife. *Lyman Crockett died after an appendicitis operation last evening, never came out of the ether. He was so young and a very nice man. Lois left for Portland. I had a grand visit to Iowa, everyone was lovely to me.* Lyman was Willie and Stella's son, age 35, who had worked for his father in the grocery store in Montpelier. He had a nine year old son. Another would be born to his wife Millie two months later.

More property was transferred by Will, this time to Kenneth on February 10, 1938.

Jean was now going to school in Salt Lake City, living with his mother's sister Emeline. He had heard news of flooding in Long Beach and was worried, having seen some Long Beach people listed among the casualties. Two Pacific storms had dumped a year's worth of rain in Los Angeles County in just a few days, killing about 115 people. Ten were killed when the bridge over the river in Long Beach collapsed.

Denise at about four

Rodney was in school in Salt Lake too, according to Jean. Jean wrote to Will and Nora March 28th that in the middle of exam week, Rodney's son Dale, who had just turned five, came down with diphtheria. The doctor gave him a double dose of antitoxin and then a couple more, which worked wonders for him. Luckily, none of the other kids got it. Denise was seven and Jack was two. Rodney had missed so much school during the quarantine he was considering just taking the family back to Dingle. Jean hoped

Milton would be able to fix up Will's ruptures so they won't trouble him so much.

Will wrote to Wesley on April 4, 1938 about the thrill of taking his first flight on a commercial airliner from Long Beach to the Bay area to see Milton. He wrote to Nora on the eighth that a new type of truss had been fitted in San Francisco which seemed promising. Milton had put it on him the first day, and now he had done it alone and it was holding up.

More of Will's land was transferred on May 3rd, this time to Beulah. Will was back in Dingle, working things out.

Nora wrote to Wesley and Mamie on May 17th, *Am glad the leg seems to be getting all right, but sorry that the homecoming had to be postponed. If I could stand the altitude and the climate and work I surely would like to be up there.*

Will wrote to Nora on May 21st. *The truss is fine and I...can get around a long time between any bother and I never have them awful sick spells. I can eat well, too much, so I may be gaining a little, but I must have some strength.* He had dropped to 177 lbs. in San Leandro. He was helping Kenneth to pile logs and poles to dry. He would count them while Kenneth did the heavy work. *I am a whole lot more nervous than I have been at times, so it is not so good....Tell me, when you expect to start to Idaho? Mamie has my bed until she gets her cast off.* She had broken her femur while Will was at Milton's. *She calls me every day since I got the phone in Monday. The drillers will be here to put the well down in about 2½ days...have not done much so far, but hope to get more done the next two weeks if I but can keep well. It is now or never by me. The quitting is coming for me and I see it without a doubt. So here I am at bottom.*

On May 24th Will was writing to Nora again. His brother John was planning a trip west to see all of the family. *I don't think it advisable for you to come up here just to take care of me. We are all glad that you have such a nice...Mother's Day. John Ream said he had the money in the bank and would start...on July second, go to Denver to see Sadie Mercer and to Steamboat Springs to see her brother Cody, then to Dingle for two days and to Portland to see Maud and Elda. If he goes southern route will see Edith, then to Cal to see his two kids. He wants to see you, so if you can get here in July it would work OK. Mitch and Mary may come along.*

Two days later he wrote again. *Mamie is over at Mabel's home and will be there till the cast is off. She seems to enjoy the bed OK and I am glad I could do a little good turn to help her. J. R. will have 3,000 more polts tomorrow, total of 6-7,000. K.D. will have all his logs, slabs, and lumber home tomorrow. Well diggers have gone through 20 ft. of water sand just east of the kitchen window.* Will had put in an electric motor pump. *When you get here I have my old puddle jumper and we can go for a ride. When you get here I have a lot of things to talk over....I think this is my last summer to work on the old place. I may not be getting as much done as I used to but I am doing my very best. I don't move as spry as I would like.*

On June 8th he wrote in response to a letter from Nora which had recalled the 55 years since their meeting. *We have had a very remarkable record with our family, for which we are*

pleased....I think it was the way we taught and raised them....If everyone here in Dingle had done as we did, Dingle would have been a better place. We are getting what we worked for and so are they and that is that....As I look at it, three score and ten is the life of man and we have gone over that mark, and that is the coming of the great change and it will be here in due time....And right here I suggest that you and Ida and kids take the Clanger and see the old home place this summer....There may be more than one chance, but it is very doubtful....I think you will like the place when you see it.

Will wrote again in July and August urging Nora to come. Ida had come up with Bob and the kids, and so did Lucille. Will thought Nora could rest up with Roxie in Salt Lake and wait for Kenneth to come for her in the car. After Ida left he tried again to get Nora to come. Milton had been to Dingle and tested Will's blood and his blood pressure, which was only 100. The ruptures were bothering him more, so he was spending time in bed to strengthen him for the trip to San Leandro for his birthday dinner on October 29th and to vote so he could get his pension. First he hoped to finish up a few things he had been longing to do for so many long years, *so it will be a pleasure to wind up with a partial success when I quit and get off the job.*

In another birthday letter to Wesley and Mamie, Nora wrote on August 17th, *Ida has taken the girls into LA. They will have a lot to talk about when they get home, and a lot to remember. It was nice that they could come.* She was probably referring to Helen and Hazel Dawn.

On October 24, 1938 Beulah had a baby in Manila via caesarian section. They named him Lee, probably in memory of Beulah's big brother.

Sam Allen and Lee

Well, Will did not get to Long Beach for his 79th birthday and Nora did not make it to Dingle. Mamie wrote to Nora on October 29th, *Wesley and I are going to go up to see Dad tonight on his birthday. I think he is going to California soon.* I do not know exactly when Will went back to Nora that year, but he was with her in Long Beach when Wesley wrote to them on December 21, 1938.

By April 14, 1939 Will was writing a post card to Nora from San Leandro. *My dear: At nine, here OK. Bill did not get here till train was moving, but all was fine. (Milton) is more busy than ever it was possible. Had 42 office calls, 12 home calls before starting for me. Two very bad home calls—did them on the way home.*

He sent another card on the 27th. He had seen the San Francisco World Fair and was planning his way to Dingle. A letter would follow. It did, written the same day. He was still in California, hoping to get on the train the next evening and arrive in Montpelier the following morning. *One thing sure, I will be glad to get back. It seems a long time since I left....Well I have not got my truss fixed yet, guess I won't. Did not go to (the doctor in) Frisco*

and I was so disappointed, but it seems my luck, so that is that. Well, I'll do the best I can. Roxie will soon be down to stay with you. Not long till school will be out. Three months till August, but I think you should come to Dingle sooner. The middle of July would be OK.

On May 4th Will wrote to Nora from Dingle. He was discouraged. He had not gotten to the doctor in San Francisco to look into improving his truss. He had not even managed to see Douglas and his family. The train trip was difficult for him, and then he found that most of his work on the house and ranch had slid back to where it had been the previous summer. He had hardly been able to make himself leave the house, not even to look at the trees he had planted. *I'll be here till I quit—for good, for I am not going to try to go to California any more. If I had followed my plans I would have been ahead or dead. Either would have accomplished something.* He was discouraged.

He continued his letter the next morning, feeling better. *Nice sunshine and spring is here, sure. I am feeling some better today. If I keep on I can do something next week. The trip almost got me....I am losing weight now and have a change of eats. Have just now some dizzy spells when down and as I turn over to get up. It is miserable, but I think it is my belly more or less.*

On May 12th Will wrote again. He was up and around, but mostly a spectator to the boys' work. Rodney had now enlarged his turkey operation to 8,000 birds and was expecting 2,000 more in 10 days. All the crops were in except at Pine Springs. The boys were hard at work shearing and docking. Kenneth was working hard on his own. *It is very slow where there is just one pair of hands...but (Kenneth) has the real stuff and if his back does not quit he will win with flying colors....You will have to come and see the old place this summer. All are looking for you (to come by train).*

As for myself, I am thinking I will get better,...will see if I can't hit something that will keep me going till Beulah and F.D. come....As Doug said over the phone, we ought to be proud as we all went through the depression...and none had to go on the dole. You have a bunch of very fine kids.

On June 9, 1939 John Paul Ream wrote to Nora from Chariton. He would be coming west July 4th. And hoped to see her in Dingle, if not would see her in Long Beach.

Will wrote to Nora on June 18th that he had been with Wesley and Kenneth to quarry more stone to finish Kenneth's chimney. He said that Rodney was now the largest turkey grower in the state and raised a fine class of birds—he should make a little "doe" this year. He urged Nora to arrive a few days before John came, to get located. Will was feeling better and was getting a few small jobs done, still working on a project at the cemetery.

Will and John Paul Ream in Dingle

There were no more letters from Will the rest of the summer. I think that is because Nora came to Dingle for John's visit.

After Nora went home that summer, Will had a long dream about the hereafter, which he shared with Mamie sometime in August, 1939. I only know about this because Mamie jotted down Will's story from memory on the back of a church meeting program during fast and testimony meeting in the Tempe Second Ward nearly four decades later on March 23, 1975.

This is what she recalled.

Grandpa Ream used to sit and talk to me a lot. I think he liked me. One day he told me about a vision he had, said he was going to have it put into a book. It was a long one. He said he had always worried about what a confusion would be on the other side. In the vision he went to Heaven. A guide met him and took him—talked to him, told him many wonderful things. "I said there will be a big conference with all these people dying. The guide said 'no, you are wrong. See these flowers and blades of grass, how they grow with no confusion. Everything is in order. Each person that comes has a light that leads him to the place he is to go. Everyone is happy and contented. The light leads some to a beautiful mansion, others to a humble home. Some go into oblivion, but all are content and no confusion.' "

He said, "There is too much to tell, but I am going to have it in a book so you can all read it, and I am not confused any more. I am going to have a lady in Lava Hot Springs type it and have it printed. It will be a big book."

He told me this in his home in Dingle. He soon went to Long Beach—and never came back. He also told me he saw Lee (who passed away) who had a lady that was more beautiful than any of his brother's wives, and he was content and felt better now.

Nora was in Long Beach when Mamie sent the following bad news from Mamie on September 16, 1939. *Dad (Will) had not been feeling well for about a week, but he is better now. He felt he had a partial bowel stoppage and sent for Dr. Spencer Rich. (The doctor) had them take him to the hospital for an enema....Last night Wesley and I went down to see him. He seemed to feel pretty good, said he was going home tomorrow. The nurse said the oil went through him and she thought he was better, but that he was worried about himself....He has several bowel movements last night. We don't want you to worry....I think he will be all right. We took your letter down to Dad.*

I think this was an obstruction from his yet undiagnosed colon cancer. Will must have gone to Milton's for help as soon as he could travel. Still trying to manage things in Idaho, Will wrote to Wesley from San Leandro on September 27th with detailed instructions on how to dam and use Murkley Lake once the Ream ditch was finished.

Will was still in San Leandro in October, when Nora sent him this letter on the third: *I was very glad yesterday to get your nice newsy and very interesting letter. When reading your letter I could just follow you in my mind over every bit of your trip....I am glad you are there,*

where they will take care of you and you will soon be feeling alright again. She wrote again five days later. Now it was she who gave a newsy update. She was feeling well and hoped Will was doing well too. She had read that the fair was scheduled to close on his birthday and hoped he could spend a little more time there. I don't think she had any idea how sick Will was.

Nora was having some vague feelings of foreboding, but had mistakenly projected them onto Wesley, who responded with this letter on October 9th. *You say you have been wondering if I am alright on account of my being on your mind for days. Physically I am fine....There are things though that put a person under an emotional strain and they may be what was reaching you by telepathy.* I think the bad vibes were coming to her from Will.

Will's thoughts were, as ever, on the farm. He wrote to Wesley on October 10th from San Leandro. *I just got your card...where is Stoddard going to work on ditch....I would like to know the particulars about it.* Will went on about the potential to make the Murkley place profitable.

Nora wrote again to Will on October 13th. *How are you? Well, I hope. I wonder if it is hot there like it is here.* She had heard from a person in Baguio and sent the letter on to Will. She was planning to listen to Lindberg on the radio that night.

Mabel wrote Will from Dingle. She and Mitchel were coming to San Francisco on the 22nd and hoped to see him there.

On October 23rd Will wrote Nora from Milton's. He had failed to answer Nora's previous three letters. *Well, I am not well, but just lazy.* He was expecting Mabel and Mitchel to arrive that day. He was glad that Nora had a chance to speak with Beulah's friend. In just 12 more months the kids in the Philippines would return and the family could all be together once again. *(Milton) was counting on a vacation and he and I coming down to Long Beach by bus. Last night he said he did not think he could or would come, so at present can't tell just when I will show up. If I can't get there in time to vote, there may be some time before I show up....I am weighing 180 and still going down, also my strength (is) not good, but I guess it will come out in the wash....I have not heard from John since he got back to Iowa. Have you?*

Wesley answered Will in San Leandro on November 4th. *About the ditch work, I was having it raised from the hill to the head gate, but when they came to work on it, water had been out so much that it was too wet. I heard from Mother the other day. She did not know if you were coming down there or when. You may be there before you get this letter.*

I don't know whether he was or not, nor do I know where Will spent his last birthday on October 29th. I hope it was in Long Beach. And I especially hope that he was home for their 54th anniversary. I don't know how he got there, nor who was with him besides Nora. If I interpret Jean's following letter correctly, Douglas and Milton seem to have arrived too late.

There was a brief local news announcement in the Montpelier newspaper on November 23, 1939. *Word was received from Long Beach, California, that W. D. Ream, who went to spend the winter at his home there, had a serious intestinal operation on Tuesday.*

On November 24, 1939 Will died in Long Beach of colon cancer. It appears to me that the immediate cause of death was the surgery, and that he must have died in the hospital.

Jean wrote to Nora from Salt Lake on November 27th. *Sorry that Grandpa passed on....I wish the boys had gotten there to see him. I thought he was in San Leandro, surprised to hear he was in Long Beach.*

On December 27th Lois Ream sent a letter to Nora from Dingle. There had been another earthquake in Dingle.

I hope that Nora and Will were together when Will died. They started together; they should have ended together. They were not to be together again until November 30, 1945 in paradise, when Nora died in San Francisco of chronic heart disease. From their first meeting on June 4, 1883 they had spent nearly as much time apart as together. This lifestyle seemed necessary for them for many reasons arising from their choice to join their two unique personalities into one family. The reasons ranged from economic survival, career choices, educational necessity, to their vastly different temperaments.[57]

I never met either one of them. I so much wish that I had. Judging from their letters, I see that Nora was practical, grounded, and reserved. She was a liberated woman with a mind of her own, which she asserted with her words, but much more with her actions. When she and Will differed, she went ahead and did what she thought right, regardless of his position. It would have been pointless and destructive had she required his agreement.

I have often heard it said that Will was a dreamer. Maybe so, but I also see him as a doer. Trouble was, his dreams were often larger than his means to accomplish them. He wore himself down, tilting with windmills physically and mentally. He always seemed to have his emotional volume knob turned to the max. It is too simple to say that he had bipolar depression. Technically, he did not. But he was a man of mood and energy swings and he never hid them. His candid and expressive letters seemed to alternate from extreme optimism to exhaustion and despair.

How they dealt with minor disagreements, as illustrated by the following observation by their daughter, Beulah, may help explain their pattern of living much of their lives apart. *I*

[57] Rodney's daughter Joan Bunderson gives another reason why Nora never moved back into the Dingle mansion from California, although she considered doing it in November of 1922. Joan relates that one October while Will and Nora were together in Long Beach, a severe early freeze in Dingle split the pipes in the walls, ruining the central steam heating system. Will rushed back, but could not repair it. This must have been in either 1926 or 1927, the only times Will could have been in Long Beach in October. Thereafter, the house was heated solely by the fireplaces, making living there miserable during the winters. That was the principal reason why Rodney and Nora built their own house in 1942 and moved out of the mansion.

listened to them argue until you'd think they'd hit the ceiling about a political idea or some other question. Then Dad would say, "Well, gotta go to work. Be back at such and such a time." They'd kiss amiably, and he'd be on this way. It puzzled me, but I studied them until I came upon the reason they could do that. Mother and Dad never got personal. Sometimes, they talked in exasperated tones, but they never got personal. That aptly described their letters and their many physical separations. They could disagree, and even complain, but never without respect for each other. But they could only stay together for so long before one or the other would say, *Well, gotta go to work.* She would go away to teach; he would go to his impossible dreams. During their separations, they constantly expressed a desire to get back together, but they each kept to their own time schedule.

I never found evidence that this lifestyle caused them grief, nor did it seem to injure their family. As Will pointed out, they produced children with a blend of their own attributes. The children were well educated, and they were achievers. They were people of character.

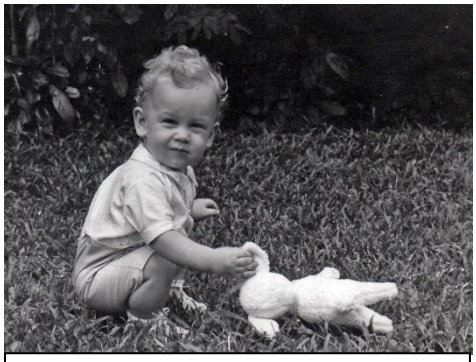
And best of all for me, their times of separation produced thousands of letters, but for which we would hardly know them. Even so, there is much more to learn, but this may have to wait until our separation from them is over.

EPILOGUE 1940-1945

Since this is the story of Will and Nora and since, of course, there were no more letters between them, I will not attempt to describe Nora's final years in detail. However, I do have some information centering on two issues of Ream family separation and togetherness: the return of their children from the Philippines, and the creation of the Dingle cemetery vault.

Nora wrote to Wesley and Mamie on January 10, 1940. *I am staying nights with Ida. She comes and gets me after school and brings me home in the morning on her way to school. Glad Jean's eye operation was a success. Ida takes me out to the "Sunnyside" where Dad is waiting. Every day we take out a few flowers from my back yard and put in his vase.*

Douglas wrote to Nora on April 30, 1940 that he had heard from Beulah, that she and 18 month old Lee were doing fine in the Philippines and were urging Nora to visit her. Fabian's wife Ruth wrote to Nora on May 14th from the islands with plans for Nora and Ida's trip. Evidently they had invited Helen to join them, but Wesley wrote on June 2nd, that she could not make the trip on account of money and his concerns about possible war with Japan. Then Nora and Ida scrapped their plans.



Lee Allen

On October 2, 1940, Jean wrote to Nora that he had hitchhiked from her house to Uncle Milton's in San Leandro. He was back in Salt Lake City and starting school.

On October 5th the VA administration acknowledged receipt of a claim from Nora. On October 30th she was awarded a monthly pension of $45 for Lee's death due to military service.

Nora wrote to Wesley and Mamie on November 20, 1940. *On Dad's birthday and on our wedding anniversary we took flowers out to the Mausoleum for Dad. Next Sunday will be just a year since Dad passed away. I am very thankful we went in the temple and did Dad's work as well as my own. I feel that he was very happy to have it done. I will be a little worried too, till we lay Dad away where he wanted to be.*

On February 15, 1941 Nora wrote to Wesley. *I got a letter a week ago from Beulah. They were well, but she said she wished her child was over here in Idaho....Everything looks so unsettled.* And a week later: *Milton talked with Beulah over the radio.*

Nora wrote on March 26th to Wesley and Mamie: *Ida is still improving. She expects to be out of the hospital in two more weeks. The scalp wound is alright but it takes long for the bone to*

heal. She looks better than since her accident. Don't work too hard. It is easier to keep well than get well. Ida would have been 41. I believe this was about a car accident in which Ida sustained a significant head injury which bothered her for years.

Two weeks later, Nora gave an update to Wesley and Mamie. *Ida is better. They took her home from the hospital last Sunday, but she is still in bed most of the time. The doctor suggested she go to the ranch to recuperate when she is able to travel....When Milton was there did he and you boys decide about the vault, and when we can lay Dad away where he wanted to be put? I hope it can be tended to this summer—it worries me. I am real well. I've been alone more than three weeks.*

On May 15, 1941 Nora mentioned the vault project again.

In his answer to that letter, Wesley did not mention the cemetery vault. He was busy with the graduation of three of his children: Mary Ida from Montpelier High with honors, Helen from B.Y.U., and Jean from the University of Utah. But he wrote again on June 18th. *I got the plans for the vault a few days ago....We could have started but I have had to do fencing at Pine Springs....We had quite a time seeing the kids graduate.*

Mamie wrote two weeks later. *I know you are wondering how the boys are doing with the vault. Mitchel sent a man up to help Wesley dig. They worked alone till Saturday. K.D. came and run the scraper to drag the dirt away. It helped a lot. Rodney has not been or sent anyone yet. It is such awful hard digging. M.A. got some giant powder. Wesley used twelve sticks and they have to use the pick anyway! They need more help. Milton said when it is ready he would get you and bring Dad up. Jean is studying for the bar.*

Wesley wrote to Nora on July 12. *We have got the foundation and the floor of the vault completed. I expect to have the walls up by the end of next week. Why don't you and Ida come up as soon as you can and Milton can bring Dad when everything is ready? Well, I will do the best I can and hope to have the crypts in in two weeks. You could bring him up then and we could put the top on later.* But Wesley was getting no help from his brothers, and by the end of July he wrote that he might not get the project done until the next year. He had finally qualified for a loan to build a house onto the concrete basement his family had been living in since the depression began. *I paid the Federal Farm Loan installment on Aug 1. Ida's part is $49.86. We are figuring on sending Mary Ida to B.Y.U. We have done no more on the vault yet and I don't know when we will. I will try and have it done so you can come up next summer if I have to do it alone.*

Two days later, Nora's brother-in-law Archie Lamoreaux died in San Diego at age 83.

On August 29, 1941 Fabian's daughter Nora wrote to Hazel Dawn from Baguio. They were both about 15 years old. Maybe the war threat unsettled the adults, but it did not faze the teenagers. Fabian's family was raising hens for eggs, getting 33 eggs per week. Nora thought the family would be coming home in a couple of years. She rode horses a lot, had not learned the language.

Nora wrote Wesley and Mamie again around Thanksgiving time. *After dinner we went out to the Mausoleum—took Dad some flowers out of my garden....I am glad that you are building your home. You have needed it so long. Beulah may be home for Xmas. (Fabian) and family were well. Jean seems to be doing fine, I am glad to have him with me.*

That December 15th, Mamie wrote to Nora. *Has Beulah come? We heard she was coming for Xmas.* Beulah had indeed been scheduled to return with her family about that time. A large ship sat in the harbor at Manila waiting to leave for San Francisco. Sam and Beulah had bought tickets on that ship for departure on December 15th and had packed their belongings for transfer to the ship.[58] But on December 8, 1941 the day after the attack at Pearl Harbor and a week before Mamie's letter, the Japanese had also begun bombing Manila. The families of Beulah and Fabian were trapped in the Philippines.

January 28, 1942 Wesley wrote after giving progress on his house project. *Any word from Fabian or Beulah?* Nora wrote that Jean was in bed with flu the past four days but was now back to work at the plant. He had been living with her while working in the war industry. *I am hoping...that will keep him from having to go to fight....No word from the folks in the P.I. since the message Xmas day.*

Still constructing his house, Wesley was also working on the vault project. He gave an update on June 8th. *The vault could be used now, but the ground should be cleaned up and leveled, and tar on the room and a door. Come when you are ready and we will get out and finish up. I will face it with stone later.*

Helen was in Hayward that summer, working to take care of Milton and his wife Helen's kids, who all had rheumatic fever. Her mother and Milton shared a postcard postmarked June 19, 1942, which was sent to Helen from the train station in Montpelier. Mamie wrote: *We are here to meet the train. Ma* (Mamie's mother Sarah) *seems a little better...She is anxious to see Uncle Milton....Well, here is the train ahead of time. Grandma (Nora), Milton and Beulah Lee are fine.* Milton, getting off the train added ...*have had a reasonably pleasant trip. I am writing this on the southeast corner of the Montpelier station. Wesley is here but Kenneth is just now coming. Love to Aunt Helen and our sick ones.* There was nothing written about a graveside service, or the gathering of other family members, but I think Milton had arrived as he had promised with Will's casket to transfer it to the Dingle cemetery vault.

Beulah's close cousin Sybil Hopkins wrote a long letter to Nora on September 15, 1942 enquiring about Beulah and Fabian. Of course, there had been no news from the Philippines.

Wesley's house was completed in time for Thanksgiving. Jean did not get home for Christmas but stayed with Nora to work in the defense plant. Mamie wrote to Nora on December 29th, *Yes, we were disappointed not having Jean with us for Xmas, but hope it's for*

[58] Lucinda Bateman and Helen Ream Bateman, *Beulah, the Good Doctor, A Biography of Beulah Ream Allen,* page 94.

the best and that by his staying and working in the plant as he has done that they will keep him there....We too were wishing for good word from the P.I. I still have faith that they are safe somewhere. Jean wrote to Nora on January 2nd, that he had surprised his family, arriving unannounced in Dingle on New Year's Day after a difficult trip through Logan Canyon.

On January 6, 1943 Milton wrote a letter to Nora to fulfill a New Year's resolution to keep better in touch. He offered to pay her train fare if she would visit him. He was thinking that he could reduce his work by becoming an army doctor.

Nora wrote to Wesley and Mamie on January 11th. *I got your letter before Jean left here. I sure do miss Jean. I was in hopes they would leave him down here working at the defense work. I am glad you have it nice and warm in your lovely new home.*

Jean was drafted that month and wrote to Ida from Iowa in a Pullman car headed to an unknown destination. He ended up in Florida in a training camp.

Nora wrote to Wesley on January 20th asking for information on Fabian's insurance company. *His mother-in-law wants to make payments so he won't lose it. She found out that her daughter Helga and her three children were interned by the Japs at Santa Tomas camp, Manila and that she could write short letters to them.* A little news from the Philippines at last! Nora said she planned to visit Dingle the next summer.

On January 27, 1943 Nora wrote to the Idaho Bureau of Vital Statistics asking them to issue birth certificates for her ten children, who had been born at home and never been officially registered.

This task led to another letter to Wesley and Mamie on February 26th. *This is to send Wesley his birth certificate. As I am the only living witness that you children were born I thot I had better get them while the getting was good....sometime perhaps your children will appreciate it.* Actually, I am one who does. *I've been looking for Mary Ida and Helen, but have not had a word from them, don't even know when they started down. K.D. and family are here and well. Ida is well.*

In March, Ruth's mother received an ultra-brief message through the Red Cross from the Philippines. *We are all well,* signed Beulah, Ruth and Helga. It was the first direct news anyone had received in 1½ years.

Nora was in San Leandro in July, evidently having taken advantage of Milton's offer of a train ticket. Mamie was there too and sent Wesley a postcard. His mother was fine and Ida was expected to arrive the next day with Bob. Nora would return to Long Beach with her. A regular letter was sent two days later. *Your mother and I went with Milton on his calls this a.m. to the hospital and many home calls. The children have rheumatic fever still. Not real sick, but cross. We expect Ida today.*

On September 10th Nora wrote to Wesley and Mamie asking them to find a book in the old house to send to her. It contained a reading she once gave for women's suffrage, which she

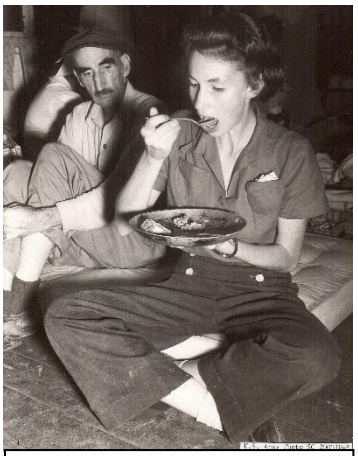
would like to use. She hoped the girls got home O.K., glad that Mary Ida had stayed with her. Mamie was not able to find the book.

Nora was thinking about the families in the Philippines on October 20, 1943. *Next Sunday will be Beulah's boy's birthday and so my oldest brother's. My brother will be 89 years old. I think Beulah's baby will be five, I am not sure.* And she didn't seem to remember Lee's name. *I wish we could hear from the folks in the P.I. but I still hope and pray. Kenneth and Ruth are coming down...Don't worry about not finding the book you looked for for me. Mary Ida looks fine and is just as sweet as ever.*

On December 1, 1943 Nora's oldest brother Alvin David Crockett died in Preston at the age of 89. Wesley wrote on December 7th, *Friday in Montpelier Mitchel told me about Uncle Alvin. Then when I got home I got a call from Lund saying that Aunt Delia's oldest girl (LaPreo) had died. She was the last of (Delia's) girls alive and she was forty five. She died suddenly like all the others.*

Then there was more news from the Philippines, and it was good news. On December 16th Mitchel wrote to Nora, *That sure was good news from the P.I. I was sure glad. As soon as it came I took it up to J.R. and W.W. was there, so they got to see at the same time. Then took it in to Montpelier in time to get it off on the night train for I was almost sure you had not received any word. Now if you did, let me know, will you?* But he did not give a single word of what the actual news was, probably simply that they were alive.

Nora got good news independently on December 22, 1943 in a letter from an organization called Relief for Americans in Philippines, 101 Park Avenue, New York City. It read, *I am very glad to be able to tell you that Mr. Protrude, the only repatriate from Baguio, has reported that Mr. Fabian D. Ream and family are safe and well, and now interned at Camp Holmes, which is the regular internment camp for Baguio region and is five miles out of the city. Dr. Beulah Ream Allen and family were transferred to Santo Tomas as the camp was short of doctors. Fabian is a hard worker in camp and confined his duties to shop work. His major job was making wooden shoes for the internees. His wife was equally active and had charge of the women's vegetable crew, which was a man-sized job. She also served on the women's committee. Fabian made a set of aluminum teeth for himself. The children all attend camp school and are very popular.*



Fabian and daughter Nora Ruth in Baguio

That was not all. Nora wrote to Wesley and Mamie on December 23rd. She enclosed a copy a letter sent August 21, 1943 from the Philippines. *I am enclosing a copy of a letter I got from Fabian two days ago...signed in his own handwriting. It had been censored.*

January 6, 1944 Rodney received a long letter from W. Portrude in Tacoma updating the status of Beulah and Fabian's families. He was a recently returned former patient of Beulah's. It was four pages long and gave the history of life in camp.

That month Wesley drove to Long Beach with Mary Ida and moved in with Nora for several weeks. He had gotten a job there as a draftsman.

On February 14th, Nora's younger sister Roxie died of a stroke in Salt Lake City. In a letter of condolence, one of Nora's friends asked whether she had heard any news about Beulah's husband, Sam, who had been captured and later died in the infamous Bataan death march. She had not.

On March 4th, Nora wrote to Mamie, *Wesley left here yesterday for home by way of Milton's. I hope he will come back next winter and bring you with him. Mary Ida is well and sweet as ever. I hope Wesley has a more restful trip than you and I did.*

Evidently Will had not completed the entire transfer of Dingle acreage to his children. On July 15, 1944 Nora granted land to Beulah and Ida, according to records of Bear Lake County.

In October, Nora wrote to Wesley and Mamie. *It's been a long time since I wrote—I hope the girls are keeping you posted. They removed a tumor from Ida's transverse colon a week ago—no sign of cancer. She's still on liquids....Milton did not get here in time for the operation because he couldn't get a plane—traveled overnight on the train and stayed until Wednesday. He took Mary Ida and Hazel Dawn to see her. The girls and I are well. We haven't heard from our folks in the P.I. You are the only ones who write from Dingle.*

On November 9th Wesley wrote to Nora, remembering the 50th wedding anniversary nine years earlier, and mentioning encouraging news from the Philippines. Wesley had lost again in the race for county surveyor, mainly because of opposition in Dingle. The family had all wanted Dewey against Roosevelt.

Nora replied on November 15th. *Glad you thought of our anniversary, some of the rest did too, but some I guess were too busy to write and say so.... (Ida) was still very weak and should be in bed....When the girls came home they brought a nice present, a nice box of stationary...I wish you could have come down...on your way to Milton's, but...it is 500 miles farther and back....It looks like the P.I. will be liberated in the near future. I hope so.*

Then on February 22, 1945 came the news which the family had craved. In a breathless letter Mabel wrote to Mamie that she had received a call about midnight for Kenneth from a government man with a message from the Philippines about Fabian and two of his girls, Katherine (age 16) and Sarah Lee (age 13). He would not give Mabel the message because she was not next of kin, but spoke with Mitchel, who gave him Kenneth's address. The next day Mabel received a message from Nora that Beulah and her boys, Lee (age six and Henderson (age 2½) had been liberated from Santa Tomas in Manilla. She was still waiting for the message from Fabian.

On February 23, 1945 after 38 months of captivity Beulah and her two boys left the prison camp forever and were hustled onto a ship that carried them away through waters still infested with Japanese vessels.

Nora wrote to Wesley and Mamie from Long Beach on March 6th. *Glad to get your letter and news of your trip to San Francisco and the interesting talk with the nurse who had come over from the P.I. That is the first information I had from any of them. Beulah must have looked thin—only 96 lbs., and Fabian so thin too. I guess they will soon pick up pounds now they are getting enough to eat.* They were free but had still not returned from the Philippines. *I wish they would find Sam alive—it might be, such things have happened. I want to be well and perky when our kids get here from the P.I. I wish the war would hurry and be over. It looks like the people will be mostly killed off if it lasts much longer.*

On March 14th from Dingle, Mabel sent Mamie more news from the Philippines. *By your letter I take it that you folks haven't heard from Beulah and Fabian like we did*, so she enclosed a typed copy, which was not saved with the letter, probably forwarded to another family member. Mabel thought she could identify Beulah in a photo in Life Magazine, up on a balcony. *Hard to imagine Beulah as thin.* Mamie and Wesley had been living in Milton's cottage while Wesley was working for Milton as a groundskeeper. Now they were packing their things to vacate the cottage for Fabian and his family to occupy when they arrived.

I have not been able to find out exactly when the ship bearing Beulah and her kids arrived in San Francisco. Milton and Douglas with their families were standing on the dock for their arrival along with Ida, who had driven from Long Beach for the occasion. From the newspaper photo, it appears that Wesley and Mamie were there, too.

Fabian, Ruth, and their children arrived a few days later. The first thing Beulah did was to borrow Milton's car and drive to Long Beach to Nora, who had never seen her two grandchildren, Lee and Hendy. Helen, who had been working in Long Beach and living with Nora, wrote to her parents, who were still in Hayward, *do hurry back here please. Aunt Beulah and kids are fine and I take great glee in feeding them. I'm making a house coat for Aunt Beulah....We were swamped for days when Mitchel, Rodney, Denise, Ramona and Aunt Mabel were here....I'm sitting here on the beach sizzling my front....Hendy just fell in the ocean and got terrifically wet.* Later Wesley and Mamie took the two boys to Bear Lake, where they lived with them for the summer. Beulah went back to San Leandro, intending to set up a practice with Milton.

BROTHERLY LOVE

Home again from the tortuous years in the Santo Tomas prison camp, Dr. Beulah Ream Allen (center) is receiving salutations from brothers Dr. Milton Ream (left) of San Leandro, and Wesley Ream of Idaho. Another brother, Dr. Douglas Ream (in back) of Berkeley waits his turn. Dr. Allen, whose Army colonel husband died in Cabanatuan, says she intends to carry on medical practice in San Francisco.

An article in the *Deseret News* dated April 30, 1945 showed Hendy and Lee with a small cannon in the museum on Temple Square under the heading, *Boys No Longer Bow to Japs.*

The article explained that the boys had stopped with an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Ream on their way to Dingle.

Fabian and Ruth arrived in San Francisco at the latest before May 20th and moved into Milton's cottage. Nora was with them and so was Beulah when Ruth wrote to Helen in Dingle on June 4th. *Patching up a few defects such as teeth and glasses before going to work.* She was already lonesome for her normal routines in the Philippines. *Life is hard here, so difficult to get around. Gramma (Nora) says to tell you she is feeling fine. Milton takes her out for a walk and a sunning every day. My sister appreciates the lovely night gowns you made for her, Helen Mae. The clothes you made for Beulah are smart.*

Hendy and Lee in Dingle

Helen's young sister Hazel Dawn, who had been with her in Long Beach wrote from there, asking whether the flowers had arrived in Dingle soon enough. Their mother Mamie answered on June 11th. *The flowers came just in time...We took them right up to the cemetery...put them in front of the vault. I will be glad to have you all home. Beulah is taking Grandma to L.B. to get her things.*

This interesting letter establishes that Beulah and Nora came to Dingle via San Leandro, and that they were next planning to move Nora out of her house in Long Beach. I do not know for sure who the flowers were for. I could not find evidence of any family member, who had died just then, but the flowers were sent to the cemetery in Dingle and put in front of the family vault. It seems likely the family had held a memorial service for Beulah's husband Sam.

Beulah bought a house in San Francisco about three blocks from Golden Gate Park in June. Ida sold her home in Long Beach and moved in with Beulah around July 15th. Helen wrote to Jean on July 1st that they were planning to sell the Gaviota house, too.

On August 1, 1945, Mamie was in Long Beach with her girls. She wrote to Wesley, *Just got to 929 Gaviota and I must say it makes me feel sad to see all your mother's things gone and to know that Ida is gone too. Rickie is staying here with the girls. Ida drove in to Milton's Sunday. We were glad to see her. Your mother and the rest are well. Beulah has a swell place. Lee and Hendy did not want us to leave, kept asking about Uncle Wesley. Had car trouble, using way too much gas. Hope you're OK without the car. See you soon.*

The atomic bombs were dropped August 6 and 9; the Japanese surrendered August 15, 1945.

Nora wrote to Wesley and Mamie from her new house in San Francisco on August 18th. *I think I am getting a little stronger each day. They all say I look better. We are still in a*

terrible mess over here. The workmen were so slow....they worked by the house and killed as much time as possible. But we do have the heat on....I sure wish Peace had really come to the world. If we had had Wesley and Fabian here for 2 or 3 days they would have done much more than the 8 or 10 men did here in a week. We were robbed of our valuables that were small enough to put in their pockets. They took Ida's jewel casket with everything in it. I was lying on the couch. If I had known it was robbers I would have come out and brained them with my cane....Not much hope in recovering anything...We are not even unpacked....when we are settled we will all like it here. Come and see.

On August 23rd, Helen wrote home from Long Beach. She and her two sisters were living there along with Fabian's daughter Nora Ruth and Rick Choquette, but without their grandmother.

Beulah and Ida were planning a month-long journey, partly for rest and relaxation, and partly to see the Surgeon General in Washington, D.C. to try to get back pay for Beulah for the time she served as a physician in the prison camp. They invited Helen to go with them, hoping to set up a visit with and encourage her to marry her boyfriend, LaVar Bateman, who was serving in the Navy in Cuba. The three of them were in Chariton on October 25, 1945, where they visited Will's brothers John and Mitchell Ream.

On November 12th, Nora wrote the last of her letters in my collection. She wrote it from San Francisco to Wesley and Mamie. I suspect that she was living in Beulah's house there. *We are so sorry Rodney is sick. What hospital is he in? K.D. is in trouble too....He had his foot mashed while working at the shipyard, breaking a bone. The girls (Beulah and Ida) called from Washington D.C. and said they would soon be starting for home....I am getting homesick for them.* Evidently she was not aware of Helen's marriage to LaVar, which was to happen the very next day. *Fabian and family have moved to Palo Alto working for Marsden, whom he worked for in P.I., on a chicken ranch. Ruth took Hendy with her till Beulah comes back.*

Helen and LaVar managed to locate each other in Washington, D.C. and with the encouragement of her two aunts were married November 13th, 1945, just two days after what would have been Will and Nora's 60th anniversary.

Beulah and Ida headed home, and the happy couple went to Cuba to live. Helen never saw her grandmother again.

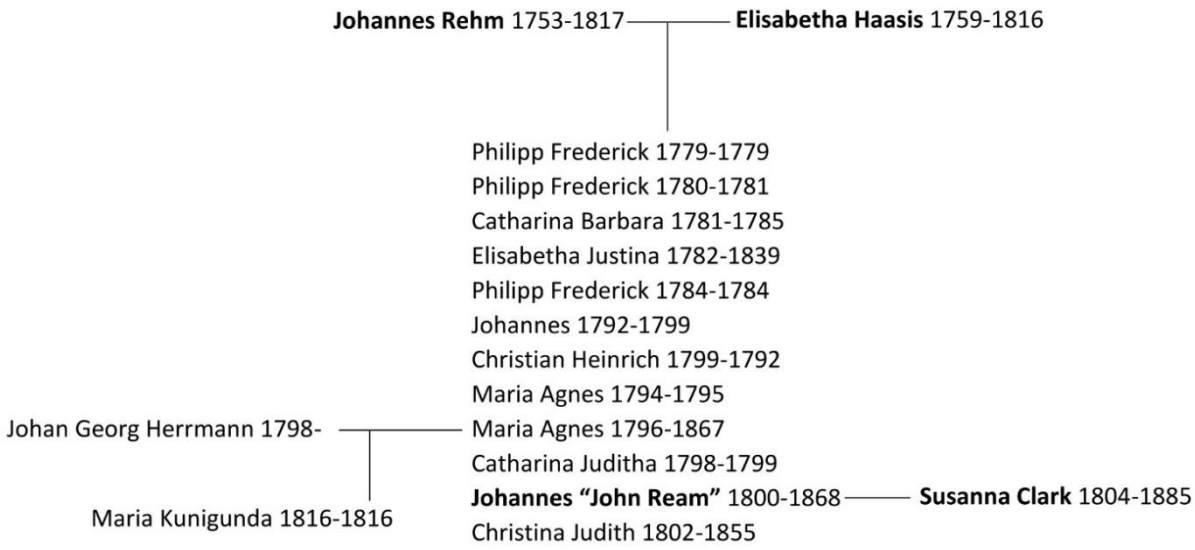
Nora died on November 30, 1945 of chronic heart disease just a month before her 83rd birthday. She was buried in the family vault in Dingle. She and Will were together at last, this time for good.

On December 1st Douglas sent a telegram to Wesley. *Leaving on Train 28. Suggest one speaker, Oh My Father, and song from Dad's services.*

Nora Ellen Crockett Ream

PART TWO: HISTORY OF THE REAMS

JOHANNES REHM, PFULLINGEN, REUTLINGEN, WÜRTTEMBERG, MARCH 20, 1800



The Glorious French Revolution was closing out its eleventh year and Napoleon Bonaparte's takeover was in its fourth month. By the end of the year 1800 he would consolidate his power with his surprising victory at Piedmont, driving the Austrians out of Italy and asserting France as a European power. Pfullingen, then already an 800 year old town of about 3,400 people, was bracing itself for more trouble. It lay in western Württemberg, only 80 miles from the French border. During the French Revolution of 1789 many of the royal court had fled to German towns near the French border for sanctuary and to prepare for a counter revolution. By 1792, the turmoil in France had spread to Württemberg and Baden, where the countryside was devastated in battles until the Margrave changed sides and allied with Napoleon in 1805.

A German speaking family named Rem had migrated to Pfullingen from nearby Reutlingen in the early 1500's. All church records of that period were destroyed when the church burned down in 1590, but eight generations who called themselves Rehm followed from that time. In March of 1800, a 46 year old man named Johannes Rehm, who was working a 30 acre subsistence farm,[59] and his wife Elisabetha Haasis, were expecting their eleventh of twelve children.

It is hard to imagine what they had gone through to build a family. Their first child, Philipp Frederick, was born 21 years earlier in 1779, but died a year later. The couple used that name for two more boys, but neither lived more than eighteen months. They named two girls Catharina. One of them lived three and a half years; the other lasted only 15 months. The years 1788 and 1789 brought extreme famine, which some scholars say primed France for its revolution, and greatly impacted Pfullingen. The Rehms had no pregnancies at all during that time, suggesting that Elisabetha had starved herself infertile. Then she had a boy named Christian who lived only a month. Their first to be named Maria Agnes died at nine months. A boy whom they named Johannes after his father lived to the age of seven. In March 1800, of Elisabetha Rehm's ten children, only two were still alive: 18 year old Elisabetha Justina and the second Maria Agnes, who was four. On March 20th a boy was born, and they decided to use the name Johannes Rehm one more time. He and his two sisters lived to adulthood, and so did another daughter named Christina, who was born two years later. But the hard times were not over.

In 1812 Napoleon assembled a mammoth army to invade Russia, recruiting and commandeering many soldiers from his German speaking neighboring states. Sixteen thousand young men from Württemberg went with him to Russia and its cruel winter, some of them as young as 15 years old. Only a few hundred ever found their way back. But young Johannes was too young to go with them, and his name was entered in the church books of Pfullingen for the last time when he was confirmed in 1814.

In April, 1815, Mt. Tambora in Indonesia produced the greatest volcanic eruption in written history, killing 90,000 people. It continued to spew volcanic ash for the next three

[59] The word denoting his profession was written indistinctly and could be read either as *Hufner* or *Hafner*. Hufner means peasant farmer; Hafner means potter or setter of tiled stoves. The former seems much more likely to me.

years. 1816 was known in Europe as "the year without summer" because of the blockage of the sun, which caused freezing temperatures that May in New York, and inspired Mary Shelley, who was vacationing in Switzerland that frigid summer, to write the novel Frankenstein. Massive crop failures and food shortages devastated the world.

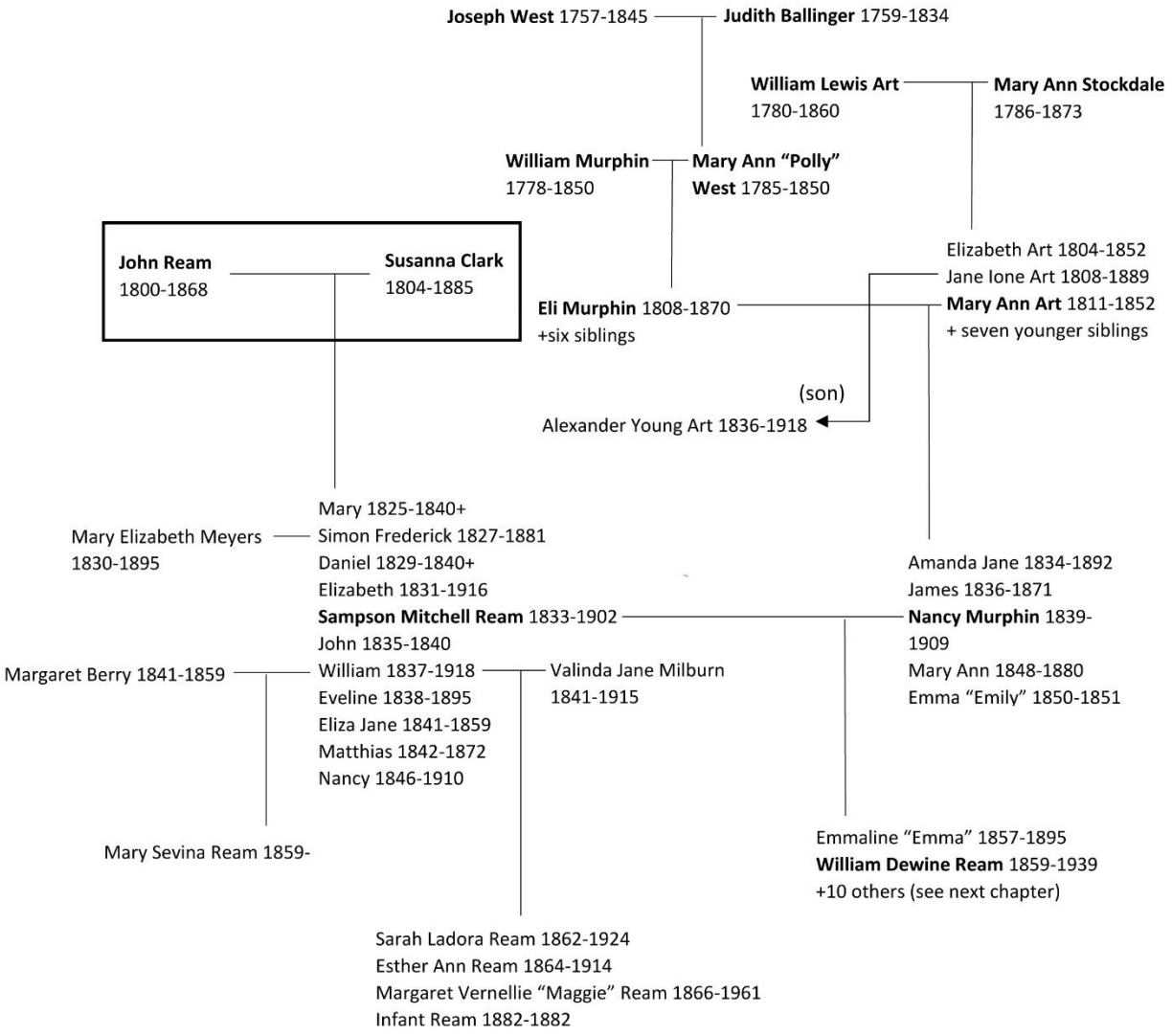
On February 10, 1816 young Johannes' mother died just before he turned 16. Six months later, his 19 year old sister Maria Agnes gave birth to an illegitimate baby, whom she named Maria Kunigunda Rehm. The church scribe noted on the birth record that the father was 18 year old Johan Georg Herrmann. The baby lived only four months. Then on March 2, 1817 Johannes Rehm senior died. The church record notes that the orphaned Maria Agnes immigrated that year from Pfullingen to Russia. Johannes and his 15 year old sister Christina were left alone. His oldest sister, Elisabetha Justina, was long out of the house having been married for eight years, with several children of her own.

It is not hard for me to imagine why Maria Agnes fled the country after her parents died. She had probably been shamed by the community. But it is not so easy for me to understand why she would go to Russia of all places. Perhaps she was in contact with one of Napoleon's recruits from Pfullingen, who never made it back home. Gunther Schaible, the local Lutheran minister, who had helped me to find the Rehms in Pfullingen, believed that the clerk of the Pfullingen church had simply guessed that Maria Agnes was going to Russia and could have gone anywhere. But I think it is possible that she went to Russia first, and then to America later. And perhaps she did not go alone. It makes sense to me that she may have run off with her boyfriend, Johan Georg Herrmann. I could find no record of a Maria Agnes Rehm of her age in any ship records, nor anywhere in America, but there was a tantalizing ship's log record of a Maria Agnes Herrmann, who arrived in America in 1839 and died in Hamilton County, Ohio in 1863. Maybe the two young people went together initially to Russia (there were certainly expatriate soldiers from Württemberg there) and she made her way years later to Ohio with or without Johan Georg Hermann. Unfortunately, the common name Johan Hermann appears in the logs of a half dozen ships to America during the period in question.

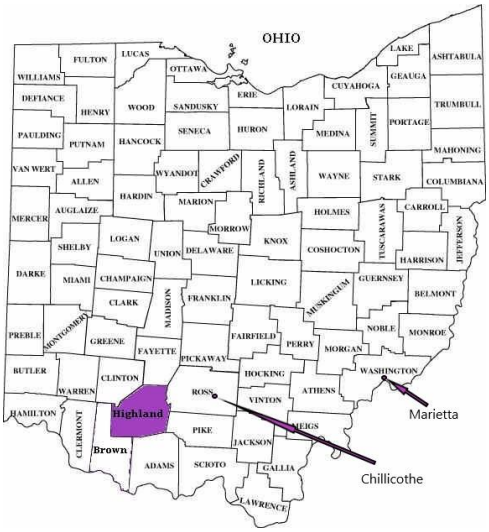
I know even less about Johannes' departure. He could have left any time after his confirmation at age 14, but I suspect it was around the time that Maria Agnes left. A brief biography of Johannes' son, Sampson Mitchell Ream[60] states that his father came to America at age 21, which would have been four years after Maria Agnes left Pfullingen. In any case, Johannes found his way to Ohio, to be married on July 17, 1823 to Susanna Clark.

[60] Chicago: the Lewis Publishing Co., 1896, page 1151.

JOHN AND SUSANNA REAM, HIGHLAND OHIO 1823-1885



Between Johannes Rehm's disappearance in Germany after 1814 and his reappearance as John Ream in America we have no facts to guide us, only conjecture. The assumption that he arrived around 1821 is based on third hand information, recorded two generations later in 1890. Other than that, we have no information at all. Since he came from Germany, the odds seem to favor a departure from Hamburg and an arrival in Philadelphia, since Pennsylvania was a popular destination for German immigrants. There the great Ohio River originates in Pittsburgh at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers and meanders generally south and west, defining the border between colonial America and the newly named Northwest Territory and providing a logical portal to the southern counties of Ohio, where John Ream farmed and raised his family. This was the former land of the French fur trappers that was won by the British in the French and Indian War, which was ceded to the United States in the treaty to end the American Revolutionary War. John's first recorded appearance was in Ross County, about 50 miles east of his eventual home, when he married Susanna Clark on July 17, 1823 in or around the town of Chillicothe. He (or perhaps Christopher Stradey, the justice of the peace who performed the marriage) anglicized his German name to John Rheims. John is said to have been 25 years old[61] when he moved to Highland County. If so, he and Susanna probably spent two years in Ross County before he secured his farm in Jackson Township. He settled on the anglicized spelling John Ream.



Modern map of Ohio Counties

I know much less about John's bride, Susanna Clark. From her responses recorded in the U.S. census we know that she was born in Virginia. In those days there were numerous Clark families from Virginia in southern Ohio, some of them among the earliest settlers, and so far I have not been able to associate her convincingly with any of them. Maybe a little more U.S. history is in order now. Pay attention to the place and family names, which will become important later in John's history.

Due to population pressures from the white settlers in the 13 colonies, Native Americans were pushed westward and concentrated in the new Northwestern Territory. They were not only fighting among themselves but were understandably hostile to white settlers and needed to be "subdued" before Europeans could settle there. The first permanent U.S. settlement north of the Ohio River (Northwest Territory) was in Marietta, Ohio in 1788,[62] just on the western bank. It was not until 1796 that it was deemed safe enough to penetrate further west to Chillicothe for a convergence of immigrants arriving overland

[61] *A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa*, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1896, page 1151.

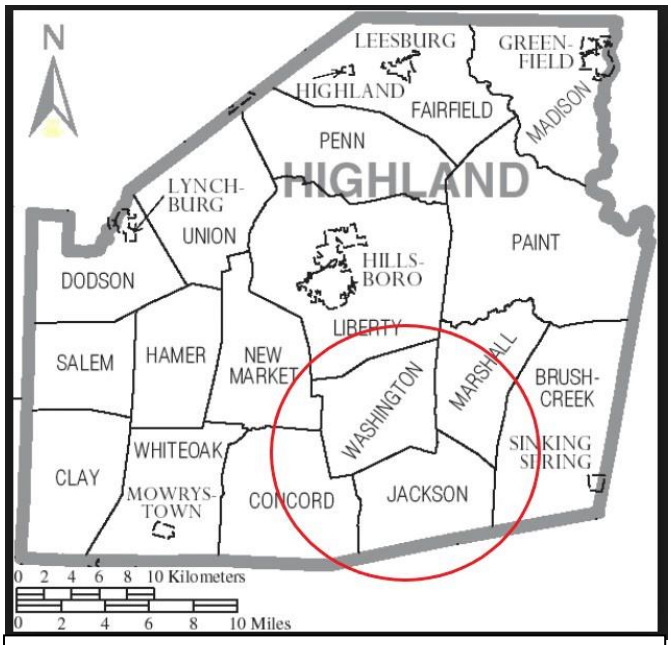
[62] David McCullough, *The Pioneers, The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West.* Simon and Schuster, New York, 2019, p.35.

from Kentucky, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey. The next year settlers came down the Ohio River to Adams County, from which Highland County was later carved.

In 1803 Chillicothe was center of the Ohio territorial government. That year the first settlement was made on Little Rocky Fork, three miles south of future Hillsboro, where Jonathan Berryman[63] from New Jersey brought the first fruit trees, sowing apple and peach seeds. The town Berrysville was named after him. That spring came the first settlement on Brush Creek near the present town of Belfast, and Ohio was admitted to the union as the 17th state, approved by Thomas Jefferson.

On May 14, 1804 President Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore the Louisiana Purchase to the Pacific. They departed from near St. Louis, going up the Missouri River, and not returning until September 23, 1806.

In the spring of 1805, Highland County, Ohio was formed from parts of Adams, Ross and Scioto counties with four townships: New Market, Brush Creek, Liberty, and Fairfield. By 1810 the population of Highland County had reached 5,766.



Washington and Jackson Townships in Highland County, Ohio

The Reams settled in Jackson Township, in the southern part of Highland County. They did not live in a town—even today there is no town in Jackson township, only an unincorporated village that was established in 1834 called Belfast, which still doesn't even have a post office. For some readers, the concept of townships requires an explanation. A township is not a town, but rather geographical division of a county—most counties in Ohio or Iowa have about a dozen of them. This can be very confusing to an uninitiated person. For example, if you try to locate the Reams by searching for Jackson, Ohio on google maps, as I once did, you could be frustrated. Incredibly, there are 37 Jackson Townships in Ohio. Each of the 88 counties gets to name its own townships, and about that time Andrew Jackson was a hero to the western farmers. There is also a Jackson City and a Jackson County in Ohio. About that time hundreds of locations throughout the United States were taking up the name of Andrew Jackson, to honor his victory over the British in the Battle of New Orleans, and to protest the so-called

[63] Berryman was a contemporary of John Chapman, better known as "Johnny Appleseed," who also traveled through Ohio, but not the same man.

"corrupt bargain" that made John Quincy Adams president after Jackson had won a plurality of the popular vote, but lost the run-off in the House of Representatives in 1824. John Ream was a member of Jackson's Democratic Party and he and Susanna were "active, devoted Methodists."[64]

Every John Ream family genealogy that I have seen asserts that John and Susanna's first child was named John Ream, born on March 4, 1824. He is even listed in Find a Grave as Susanna Clark Ream's first child. But that is incorrect. Here is my reasoning:

That particular John Ream was born only 7½ months after John Ream Sr. and Susanna Clark were married. While this is, of course, possible, it suggests that he may have come from other parents. That John Ream settled near Greenfield in the northern part of Highland county, near to where at least three other Ream families lived, who are not related to our family. There is no record of him in Jackson Township or Washington Township where John and Susanna Ream's other children settled. In the 1880 and 1900 census records, that John Ream's parents were listed as born in Pennsylvania, not in Germany and Virginia. Finally, that John, although still living, was not mentioned in John Ream's 1868 last will and testament, which divided the estate between the living children's families. After examining the Ream family roster created by Maggie Ream, I have concluded that he belonged to an unrelated family. Maggie's family roster does show a son named John Ream, but he was born in April, 1835.

John and Susanna's first child was a girl, whom they named Mary. I know very little about her except that she was born April 20, 1825 as noted by her niece, Maggie Ream. Mary was probably alive in 1840. I say this because John declared in the census that he had one female in his household between the ages of 10-15. But I have been unable to find any other record of her. She is not listed among the Ream family members in the 1850 census. It is possible that she had married and moved out, but I could find no marriage record. I think she probably died before 1850. She was not listed as an heir in John's will in 1868.

Their first son, Simon Frederick Ream, was born February 28, 1827 at the Ream farm in Jackson Township, followed by a second son, Daniel Ream, in April of 1829. Like Mary, all we know of Daniel is that he was probably the boy in the 1840 census between the ages of 10 and 15. He, too, had probably died by 1850.

The oldest child shown living with the family in the 1850 census was Elizabeth, who was born in 1831. By then there were seven children. Sampson Mitchell was 17, William (Maggie's father) was 13, Eveline was 11, Jane was nine, Matthias was seven, and Nancy was four. By then Susanna was 47 years old and there would be no more children. In that year the Ream family possessed 30 improved acres and 37 unimproved, with six horses, two milk cows, one steer, ten sheep, and 23 pigs. The farm produced 400 bushels of Indian

[64] *A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa*, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1896, page 1151.

corn and 150 bushels of oats. The land was valued at $100. In Jackson Township there were 170 farms ranging in value from $185-4,000. The mean value was $1,750.

That year Simon Frederick Ream, the oldest son, who had married Sarah Elizabeth Meyers in 1849 and had a newborn baby girl, was living next door to his father's family and to Isaac West. Isaac was an uncle to Eli Murphin, whose daughter, Nancy, was soon to marry into the Ream family. Frederick, as he was called, was probably still working on his father's farm, perhaps developing the unimproved acres for himself. Sampson Mitchell, also known as Mitch, who at his age of 17 was probably doing a man's share of work on the family farm, probably realized that there would not be enough land there for all the family in the long run.

Back in Württemberg on May 20, 1855, John's sister Christina Judith, the only family member who remained in Pfullingen died at the age of 53. I wonder whether there was any contact between them after he left. She had been just a teenager then.

On November 9, 1856, John and Susanna's second son, Mitch Ream, married Nancy Elizabeth Murphin, the granddaughter of one of the original settlers of southern Ohio.

According to a Highland County history published in 1890,[65] William Murphin from New England had made the first settlement in Washington Township, Highland County two miles east of where Berrysville now stands. His house was still standing. Most genealogies give his birthplace as Ohio, but he did not come to Ohio until about 1806. His father was raised in New Jersey, but his parents were married in Bristol, Pennsylvania, so I think he may have been born there. Bristol is just over the Delaware River from Burlington, New Jersey. There had been Murfins or Murphins living in Burlington since 1678, when William's second great grandfather, Robert Murfin of Nottingham, England arrived on the ship *Shield.* William's parents were buried in Berrysville, so they may have moved to Ohio with them. William had been married on February 29, 1806 to Mary Ann "Polly" West by Bigger Head. Yes, that was really his name, and he appears many times in Ohio history books. Bigger and his brother William Head had come from Kentucky and settled in Bush Creek township in 1800. It was there that the first sermon in the village of Marshall was preached in the home of Bigger Head, who was the first justice of Brush Creek.

Benjamin West

Nancy's grandmother, Polly West also came from early pioneers of that area. In 1801, her father Joseph West came with his brothers, John and Benjamin West, from Pittsylvania County, Virginia to a location miles west of Sinking Springs in Brush Creek Township.

[65] *A History of the Early Settlement of Highland County, Ohio*, Daniel Scott, The Hillsboro Gazette, 1890.

They were nephews of America's most important colonial painter, Benjamin West.[66]

Polly and William's first son was Nancy's father, Eli Murphin. He was born at their home in Washington Township on December 12, 1808, but after his marriage to Mary Ann Art in 1833 in Highland City he moved south to a farm in neighboring Jackson Township near the Reams, where Nancy was born and met Mitch.

Nancy Murphin's mother, Mary Ann Art, had been born in Nicholas, Kentucky in 1811 and was two when her grandfather William Lewis Art served in the war of 1812 in Ohio, possibly meeting the British invading from Lake Erie. After the war the whole family moved to Ohio, probably to claim a land grant to war veterans, and settled first in Hillsboro, and then around 1830 in Jackson Township.

Alexander Art

Nancy Murphin Ream had a cousin named Alexander Young Art, who was just three years older than she was. He was her mother's older sister Jane Ione Art's illegitimate son. Jane never married, and for the first 14 years of his life Jane and Alexander lived in the house of her parents. Then Alexander left home permanently to make a life on his own. He made a good enough life to be mentioned in a book called *History of Hartford Iowa.*[67] *After spending some time in Indiana and Knox Co., Illinois, he came to Iowa in 1856. He first settled at Chariton in Lucas C. where he worked on a farm for a stock company.* He went on to Oregon in 1862 and then to Boise, Idaho, where he conducted a store and a bakery, prospecting for mining claims. He finally returned to Iowa in 1867, married, and purchased a farm in Section 21, Richland Township, where he homesteaded and lived for the rest of his life.

I mention this because he was the first person in the extended Ream family to have moved from Highland County, Ohio to Lucas County, Iowa. Just three or so years later there began a sort of mass exodus of the in-laws of Sampson Mitchell Ream as we will soon discuss.

Mitch and Nancy's first baby was a girl, whom they named Emmaline. She was born December 27, 1857. On April 8, 1858, John Ream's third son, William Ream, married Margaret Berry. Unfortunately, Margaret died a year later on February 15, 1859, leaving him a newborn named Mary Sevena Ream. I think Margaret may have died in childbirth. Adding to the sorrow, the following month William's sister Eliza Jane, John and Susanna Ream's ninth child died at the age of 18. They had now lost four children.

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[66] Benjamin West, RA (October 10, 1738 – March 11, 1820) was an Anglo-American painter of historical scenes around and after the time of the American War of Independence and close acquaintance of Benjamin Franklin. A Tory, he fled to England before the war and became the second president of the Royal Academy in London, serving from 1792 to 1805 and 1806 to 1820. He painted portraits of King George and his family. He was offered a knighthood by the British Crown, but declined it, believing that he should instead be made a peer.

[67] History of Hartford Iowa 1849-1999, 150 Years, the Town with a "Heart," by the Hartford 150th Birthday Committee, 1999.

William and the baby were living with his parents when the census taker again knocked on the Reams' door on June 20, 1860. But it was a different door. They had moved north from Jackson Township to Washington Township near Berrysville and the domain of the Murphins. The Reams would live there for the rest of John's life. Simon Frederick and Elizabeth with four children lived next door and West Murphin, Eli's brother was just down the road. John and Susanna's last three children, Eveline age 21, Mathias age 17, and Nancy age 14 were there as well. Sampson Mitchell (whom I will henceforth call Mitch) and Nancy were not. They had moved to Lucas County, Iowa, along with Nancy's parents and most of her siblings.

William Ream

Three months later on September 9, 1860 Eveline married an engineer from Pennsylvania named Henry Sams in Highland County. They lived together for 35 years with no children. He became a physician and they moved to Melvern, Osage, Kansas. Eveline died in 1895 in Missouri on April 10th at the age of 59.

On November 6, 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States. Six weeks later, South Carolina seceded from the Union. On April 12, 1861 Confederate troops attacked Ft. Sumter and the American Civil War began.

November 11, 1861 William Ream married Valinda Jane Milburn, age 21, in Highland County, Ohio, his second wife. He was 24.

On December 1st John and Susanna Ream's youngest daughter Nancy was married at the age of 15 to George Bell. On the marriage license the space after the printed attestation *"is more than 18 years of age"* was left blank. Matthias was unmarried, and I assume that he lived at home and helped to run the farm. When he was 24 years old he married Martha Jane Van Zant in Highland City in the north of Highland County. They had three boys named Thomas, Isaac Dewine, and Mitchell Ream.

During the summer of 1868 John Ream became ill. On August 3rd in anticipation of his death, he wrote his will in Washington Township, Highland, Ohio, leaving a seventh of his estate to each of his seven living children except his daughter Elizabeth Ream West, who was still living near her parents in Washington Township with her husband William West, a carpenter, and five children. Her share was to be put in trust with Nancy's husband George Bell in nearby Bush Creek to be released to Elizabeth's children when they "become of age." John seems to have been at odds with his oldest (living) daughter, though I have no clue about the issue between them. $100 was bequeathed to his granddaughter Sevina from William's first marriage, who was then nine years old. In addition, all

Elizabeth Ream

household items that might be left behind when Susanna died were to go to Sevina, or if Sevina died first, then in equal shares to her father William and Sevina's (step) sisters. He signed the will *Johannes Rehm*, using his German name in the old German writing style.

John Ream died in Highland City, Highland, Ohio at age 68 on October 7, 1868. Highland City is 18 miles north of Washington Township, about 40 north of Jackson Township, and the place where John's youngest son Matthias was living with his young family. Perhaps Susanna had been unable to care for her ailing husband without help.

When the estate was divided up, surely John's special granddaughter Sevina received her bequest of $100, a fortune in those days to a nine-year-old. It is easy to see why she would have been special to him. Little Mary Sevina and William were living with John's family when she was an infant in 1860 and probably lived with her grandparents at least until William re-married when she was about two. I suspect that she may have spent much more of her young life in their home because when the 1870 census was counted, she was living as an 11-year-old with her widowed grandmother Susanna Ream next door to William, his new wife, and her three stepsisters in Washington Township. After that I find no record of Mary Sevina and assume that she did not live long enough to inherit her grandmother's things.

John Ream

On October 9, 1872 Mathias Ream died at the age of 30, leaving a pregnant wife and two boys aged four and 18 months named Thomas and Isaac Dewine Ream. Mitchell was born that December. Matthias' widow Martha married a man named Amos Johnson in 1875 and moved with her three boys to Pennsylvania.

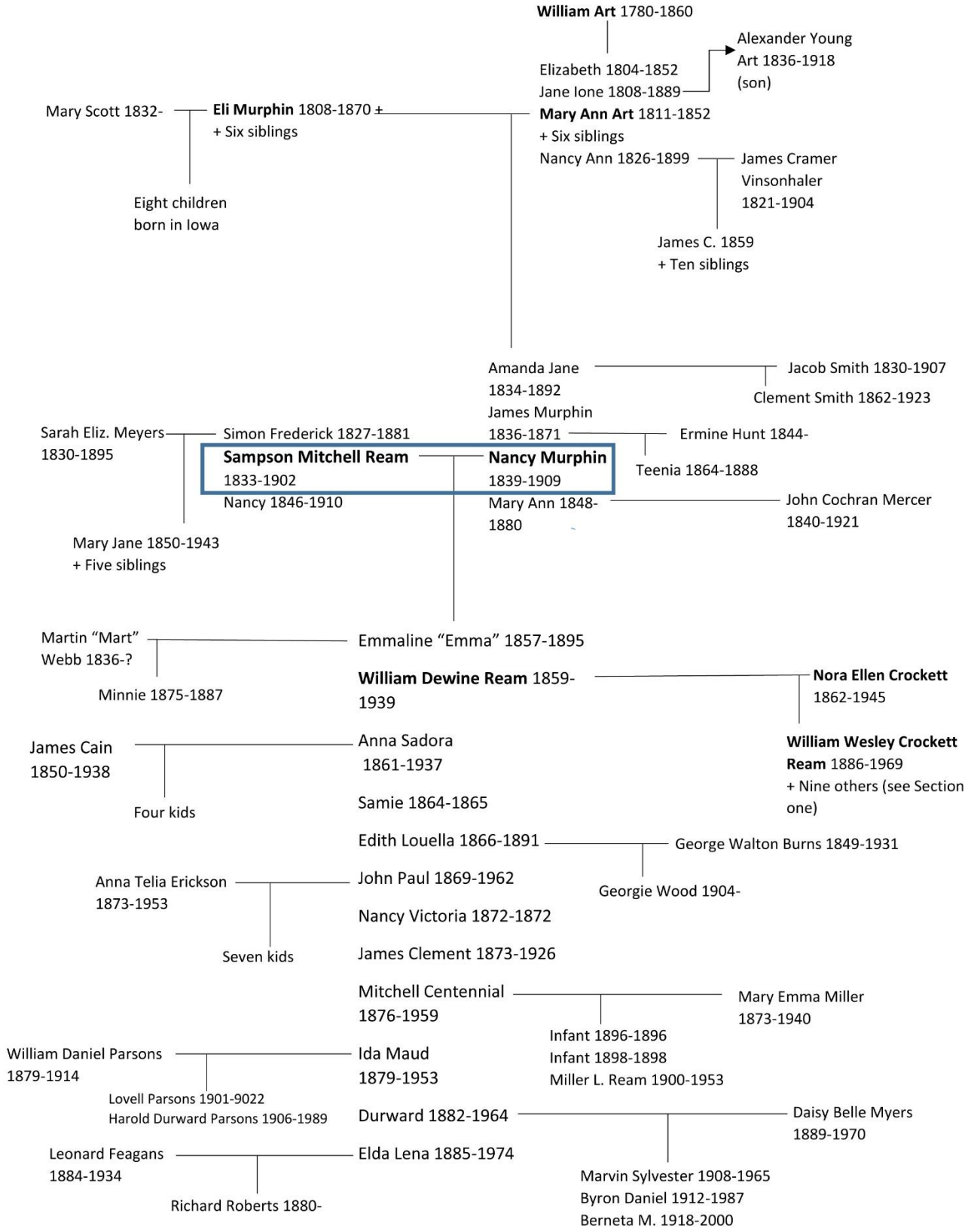
Nancy Ream Bell

Susanna Clark Ream moved at some point prior to 1880 to Knoxville, Marion, Iowa, to live with her oldest son Simon Frederick, but she outlived him. After he died March 2, 1881 she moved to Agency, Osage, Kansas, to live with her youngest daughter, Nancy Ream Bell, her husband, and family of eight children. Susanna lived there until she died September 10, 1885 at the age of 80.

Susanna Clark

I found it interesting that when Susanna's grandson Isaac Dewine Ream left his stepfather's home in Pennsylvania and got married in 1895, he changed the spelling of his last name back to Rehm.

MITCH AND NANCY REAM, LUCAS COUNTY, IOWA 1859-1905



The southern border of Iowa is not totally a flat line. I had never noticed that. At its eastern end it drops diagonally to the southeast for 30 miles along the Des Moines River, robbing the state of Missouri of a triangle of land and about ten miles of the Mississippi River from Keokuk north to Nauvoo. It is in this triangle that the story of the white people's settlement of Lucas County, Iowa began.

On February 4, 1846 the Nauvoo exodus began when Charles Shumway ferried the first group of fleeing Mormons across the Mississippi River to Montrose, Iowa Territory. The weather was so cold that Charles C. Rich and his companions were crossing on ice by February 25th. On March 1st the vanguard party including Brigham Young set out west through that tiny peninsula of Iowa Territory, fording the Des Moines river on the fifth day. They made an extended stop at Chariton Camp south of Centerville from March 22-31, 45 miles from where the gentile town of Chariton was to be organized four years later, and then passed within 15 miles to the south around April 20th, at times venturing fairly close to the northern border of hostile Missouri, trying to avoid the muddy bogs of the thawing Chariton river bottoms. This is as close as the vanguard party got to the future Iowa home of Sampson Mitchell Ream. Three thousand saints and 500 wagons journeyed 300 miles, cutting northwest across southern Iowa over the next 3½ months until they reached Council Bluffs, Iowa Territory, overlooking the Missouri River. There they made a permanent encampment to provide for the rest of the Nauvoo refugees that followed that year and to make plans to push westward to the Great Basin in 1847.

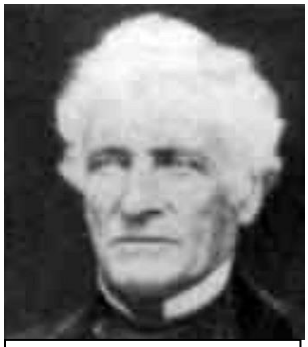
But Brigham Young realized immediately that the trail he blazed was too rough and the river and stream crossings too difficult for further use. So he sent couriers back from Garden Grove, warning the Saints who followed to take a more northerly route up the great prairie divide that bisects Lucas County, Iowa.[68] The new route was called The Mormon Trace. It passed on the north side of the Chariton River near Russel and on to where Chariton now lies. Many thousands of Saints passed through or within a mile or two of Sampson Mitchell Ream's future land holdings during the years 1846-49 before a fairly easy Chariton River crossing was discovered during 1849 southwest of Dodge's Point, a crossing now beneath the waters of Lake Rathbun. That crossing allowed the Saints to cut straight across northern Wayne County to Garden Grove, so the use of the Lucas County trail diminished as the final Mormons of the great initial exodus headed west. It continued, however, to be an important route for other pioneers headed west for many years to come.

[68] http://lucascountyan.blogspot.com/2005/06/rocks-of-ages.html.

A memorial plaque records Harriet Kellogg's recollections about the Mormon Trace: *One of the Mormons, Mr. John Blair, had expressed the opinion that a location for a road could be found, very direct and superior in every respect to the circuitous one then in use...also volunteering his services in the enterprise. William Davis took a team and a covered wagon prepared for camping, and the two went to Dodge Point on the Chariton River for sixty miles by the old route. Then supplying themselves with stakes, they struck out over an almost unbroken prairie, straight for Garden Grove, making a saving of twenty miles and on much better ground for a road, being less hilly.*

The summer of 1846 Mormon pioneers begin to pass by Chariton Point during spring and summer when the Mormon Trace was created. This served as a Mormon stopping place on the way to Mt. Pisgah for two years. The Trace remained popular even for the California '49ers through the 1850's.

That fall six Mormon families totaling about 30 persons including Elder Freeman Nickerson's extended family decided to stop near Chariton for the winter.[69] They erected six shanties of unhewn logs, thatched with poles, prairie sod and mud, which were located two miles southeast of the present courthouse where the Chariton River bends north. This was the first almost-permanent settlement in Lucas County by non-native Americans.


Freeman Nickerson

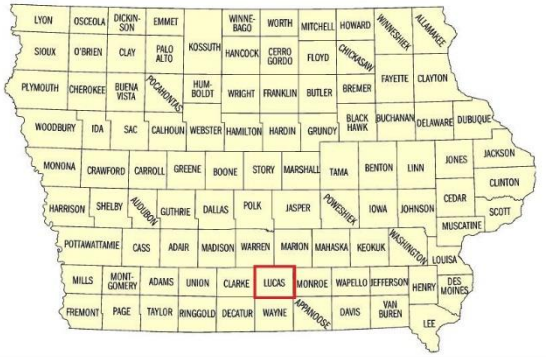
On December 28, 1846 the expansionist President James K. Polk declared Iowa Territory a State.

On January 22, 1847, Freeman Nickerson died at Chariton River. He was said to be nearly seven feet tall and weighed over 300 lbs., 68 years old, and born in Barnstable, Mass. There were two other deaths in his family at that winter camp. His third wife, Eliza Becket Kent, whom he had married just before leaving Nauvoo, died on December 28th, and Freeman's stepson, Eliza's 8 year old boy Christopher, died on January 3rd. The family remained there nearly a year, leaving Chariton Point (as they called it) late in the summer of 1847 for Kanesville (Council Bluffs).

In the spring of 1848 more permanent settlement began. Elijah Baldwin and three brothers from Indiana settled in Chariton. In June the area's first white child was born. David Roland, a "much married Mormon" with two or three wives, squatted there, but left soon. William S. "Buck" Townsend bought out the Mormon claims.

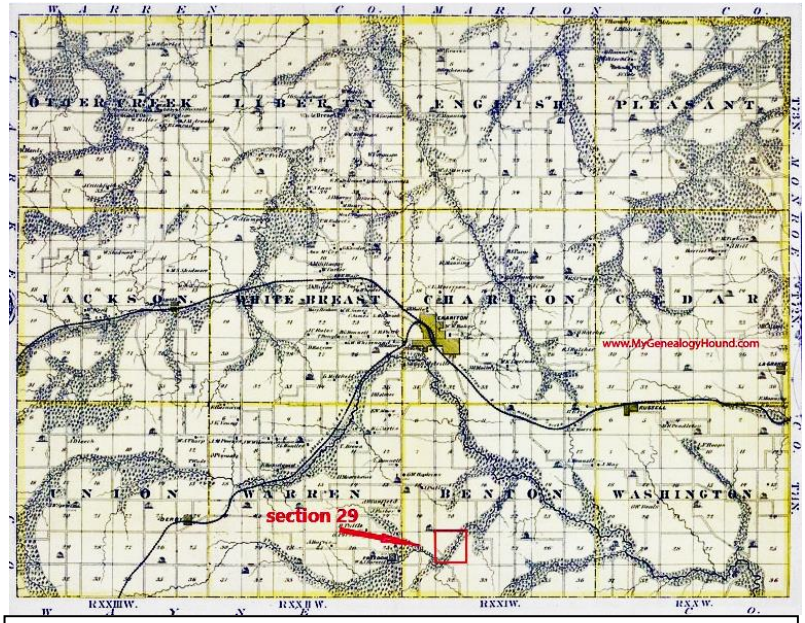
[69] Counting the polygamist Nickerson's children, in-laws, and grandchildren who ended up in Utah, it seems possible that all 30 were his relatives.

On January 15, 1849 the Iowa legislature organized Lucas County. Three commissioners were sent from Des Moines to locate the county seat. They chose the name from Chariton Point, the divide between the Missouri and Mississippi River drainages and the Mormon Trail stopping point. The Chariton River, named for an early French trader, drained west to the Missouri, and the Des Moines River fed into the Mississippi. Lucas County was named for Robert Lucas, the first territorial governor of Iowa. The county had been bought from the Sac and Fox Indians in 1837 and 1842.[70]



Iowa counties, highlighting Lucas County

In May 1850, Nelson Wescott platted the town of Chariton with 160 acres on 36 blocks to be the seat of the new Lucas County. The east-west streets were named Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Monroe, and North. The north-south streets were named East, Jackson, Van Buren, Harrison, Polk, Taylor, and West. It would be another nine years before the Ream family and their in-laws the Murphins began arriving in earnest, but Lucas County was set on development. There was free land to offer. In 1851 Thomas H. Benton was elected superintendent of public instruction, receiving 44 votes. A year later the twelve townships of Lucas County were organized, one of them named after him. Benton Township was to become the home of the Reams in Iowa.



The twelve townships of Lucas County, Iowa

[70] Robert Lucas' parents were among the very earliest settlers in Ohio, Northwest Territory. He fought in the War of 1812 and later served as president of the Ohio Senate. He campaigned for Andrew Jackson in his unsuccessful bid for the presidency in 1824 and served as an elector for Jackson in 1828. In 1832 Lucas was elected governor of Ohio and chaired the very first Democratic Party convention. He was appointed the first Iowa territorial governor from 1838-1841.

Now, back to Ohio for a moment. On March 8, 1852 Mary Ann Art Murphin, my third great grandmother, died at the age of 40 in Belfast, Brush Creek Township, Highland, Ohio. She was the mother of Mitch's wife Nancy. Nancy's father, Eli Murphin, was left with five children between the ages of two and 17, including Nancy at age 13. I believe Mary Ann's death and her husband's subsequent re-marriage probably sparked the Murphins to leave Ohio for a new start.

On January 27, 1853 Nancy's older sister Amanda Murphin married Jacob W. Smith in Hillsboro, Ohio. Amanda and Jacob would later join her father's family in Lucas County, Iowa, sometime after their first child was born in June 1862 and before 1870, when they appeared in Benton Township in the U.S. census. On August 1, 1853 Eli Murphin married his second wife, 21 year old Mary Scott, in Highland County, Ohio.

But the first of Nancy's family known to move from Ohio to Lucas County, Iowa came from her mother's side, not the Murphins. This was Alexander Young Art, a single young man of 20, out to seek his fortune. He was Nancy's cousin, the illegitimate son of mother's older sister Jane Ione Art. He was three years older than Nancy, unmarried, and arrived sometime in 1856 and settled in Chariton. On December 27, 1857 Emmaline Ream, the first child of Mitch and Nancy Ream was born on the farm in Jackson Township, Highland, Ohio.

Nancy Ann and James Vinsonhaler

I have no information on the Reams in the year 1858. I suspect this was the year that Nancy's Aunt Nancy Ann Art and her husband James Cramer Vinsonhaler arrived in Chariton from their previous home in Indiana. I know that they came sometime after 1855, for that is when their youngest child had been born in Indiana. I suspect that they could have come at the urging of her nephew Alexander after he arrived in 1856. I have no primary source for this, but family genealogies show that they had a baby boy in Chariton named James C. on February 17, 1859. He lived only briefly. From the 1860 census we learn that they were by then living in English Township, Lucas County, adjacent to Chariton on the north with four children ages two months to 10 years.

In Chariton Township was the farm of Alexander Young Art. At the time of the census in June his mother Jane Art, age 50, and his grandmother Mary Ann Art, age 76 were living with him. His grandfather William Art had died there five months earlier on January 7, 1860, missing the census count. William had been a veteran of the War of 1812 and had twice received bounty land for his service: 40 acres in 1850 and 120 acres in 1855. I suspect the latter grant was for land in Lucas County and may be why he and some family members moved west from Ohio. Maybe he drew Sampson Mitchell Ream and Eli Murphin's family with him.

Ermine Hunt

The year 1859 was the year of immigration to Iowa for many members of Nancy Ream's father's family, the Murphins. And it was the year in which Nancy and Mitch Ream made the same 600 mile trip with their toddler daughter Emmaline. I do not know whether the Reams, Murphins, and Arts travelled together or separately. Most settled in or around Chariton, all within Lucas County. Nancy's father Eli Murphin with his second wife Mary settled in English Township, Lucas County just to the north of Chariton with Nancy's three young stepsiblings and her older brother James, who was probably supplying necessary muscle to the farming. James married Ermine Hunt in 1863 and moved to the next county north, Warren County, Iowa, where he died in 1871 at the age of 35 with only one child, named Teenia.[71] They probably all came by train.

The Burlington and Missouri River Railroad was incorporated in 1852. By 1857 it reached Ottumwa, Iowa and by 1858 it reached Murray, about 35 miles beyond Chariton on the west, although a spur to the town evidently had to wait until 1867. This makes me think that our pioneers were able to travel by rail nearly the entire way. The B & M reached the Missouri River in 1859. There it stalled during the Civil War, but the line was linked in Kearney, Nebraska in 1872 to the Transcontinental Railroad. [72] The first trains rolled into the town of Chariton on July 4, 1867. Until then, the final leg was by stage or wagon.

In Sampson Mitchell Ream's published biography[73] we can learn about Mitch's youth and his move to Iowa.

On his father's farm (in Ohio), (Sampson Mitchell Ream) spent the days of his boyhood and youth working in the fields through the summer months and aiding in the other work of the farm. The schoolhouse in which he received his early educational training was built of logs and contained a puncheon[74] floor. One small window admitted air and light, and the school year covered only the three winter months. In such an institution he was fitted for life's practical duties. His residence in Iowa dates from 1859, he having arrived in Chariton on the 25th of March of that year. There was but one brick building in Chariton at the time and the place was a frontier settlement. Mr. Ream secured employment as a farm hand in this vicinity and was thus engaged for a number of years.

The Reams were probably living in Chariton Township with the farmer for whom he was working when their oldest son William Dewine Ream was born on October 29, 1859.

Curiously, the 1860 census shows Emma age two and Will D. Ream age seven months living with Joseph and Sarah A. Neff and their three month infant in Chariton Township. S. Mitchell and Nancy were living in the adjoining household with Jacob and Elizabeth Blanch

[71] See pages 61 and 228.
[72] Another account says the railroad stalled in Ottumwa, Iowa until the end of the Civil War.
[73] *A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa*, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1896, page 1151.
[74] A split-log floor.

or Bland and their three year old girl Ora, raising questions about baby-sitting arrangements or wet nursing.

On April 12, 1861 commenced the Civil War with the confederate attack on Ft. Sumter.

Mitch was probably still working for hire in Chariton Township and saving up to obtain his own property when their second daughter, Anna Sadora was born December 20, 1861. Sampson Mitchell Ream's biography continues:

Nancy and Sampson Mitchell Ream

With the capital he had managed to acquire through his own industry and judgment he purchased land and has since carried on farming in his own interest. From time to time he has added to his original purchase and today he is the owner of a fine farm of 360 acres on section 29, Benton Township, where good improvements and well tilled fields tell of the thrift, enterprise and careful supervision of the owner.[75] The land that he claimed was virgin, never having been farmed. There must have long and arduous work even before the first crops could be planted, cutting through sod, removing trees, and fencing.

I am not certain when they moved to their own farm. Sometime in 1863 Nancy's oldest sister Amanda Jane Murphin Smith moved with her husband Jacob and one year old son Clement from Highland, Ohio to Benton Township, Iowa. Perhaps the Reams moved to Benton Township around the same time. They were living on adjacent farms there by the time the 1870 census rolled around. The Smiths lived in Benton Township for 32 years until 1895, three years after Amanda died in 1892. Jacob was a blacksmith. In 1916 he proved up a homestead at Steamboat Springs, Colorado and died in 1917.

On January 20, 1864, Samie Ream was born to Mitch and Nancy. He would die before his second birthday in September, 1865. Mitch's obituary states that he had dug the first grave in the Chariton Cemetery. The "old" cemetery was privately incorporated in 1864, which suggests the place was empty for a while or he may have dug *one* of the first graves. It is hard nowadays to imagine digging a grave by hand for a family member.

Two months later Nancy's younger sister Mary Ann married John Cochran Mercer in White Breast Township, Lucas, Iowa—just west of Chariton. She probably had come initially to Iowa when their father, Eli Murphin came in 1859—she would have been about 12 then. But although Mary Ann isn't shown in the 1860 census with her family, she probably grew up there with her stepsiblings.

[75] *A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa*, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1896, page 1151.

On March 4, 1866 Mitch and Nancy Ream had their fifth child, Edith Louella.

The next year the railroad tracks reached Chariton, Iowa, running north and south up the main street. A fine train depot was built of two stories, 250 x 50 feet in area, containing a hotel with a place to eat, waiting room, baggage area, telegraph, and ticket office.

Sometime between July 1863 and the 1870 census, Mitch's older brother Frederick moved from Washington Township, Ohio to Knoxville Township, Marion County, Iowa. He must have moved before August 24, 1866, since that is the day that his 17 year old daughter Mary Jane was married there. Knoxville Township was only about 30 miles north of Benton Township, so the Ream boys could probably get together once in a while when Mitch got tired of his in-law families. On October 7, 1868 their father John Ream died in Ohio. It is certain that Frederick was living by then in Knoxville from John's probate document. I do not believe that any of John Ream's other children ever moved to Iowa.

Nancy bore her sixth child, John Paul Ream, on June 6, 1869.

The 1870 census gives a good picture of the various families. In Knoxville, Frederick Ream and his wife Elizabeth had three unmarried children ages 7-15 living with them as well as their second daughter Susan, age 17, and her new husband Charles DeWitt O'Neal, who had been married almost three weeks earlier in June. Frederick valued his land at $1,200, about average for that township.

As of August 2, 1870 Sampson Mitchell Ream and Nancy were living next door to Nancy's sister Amanda Jane Murphin Smith and her husband Jacob in Benton Township, Lucas, Iowa. The Smiths' son Clement was nine. Nancy's aunt, Jane Ione Art, then 62, was living in the Reams' home. The five living Ream kids ranged in age from two to 12. William Dewine was ten. The value of the farm was $4,700 and their personal property was valued at $1,100.

On April 28, 1873 Nancy's grandmother, Mary Ann Stockdale Art, died in Liberty, Clarke County, Iowa. She was 87. She had probably been living with her granddaughter, Mary Ann Murphin Mercer.

On June 6th Mitch and Nancy lost their seventh child, Nancy Victoria Ream. I am not sure how old she was. She is said to have been born May 24, 1873, but that seems unlikely since it is fairly certain that their next child, James Clement Ream, was born on October 6th of that year. There is a large enough gap after her older brother, John Paul Ream, that she could have been as old as three or as young as six months. In Nancy's obituary she was said to have lost Samie and Nancy Victoria "in infancy." It was tragic either way.

In September the New York Stock Exchange crashed in the so-called Panic of 1873 that caused a severe depression lasting four years. It had followed a wild boom of overinvestment in railroads, docks and factories. During the first year of the panic, 55 railroad companies failed, and the collapse spread to Europe. It undoubtedly affected the frontier farmers.

Emma Ream Webb

The next year, 1874, Mitch and Nancy's first child, Emmaline, often called Emma or Em was married. It may have been a less than happy occasion for the family; she was only 17 and her husband Martin Webb was a 35 year old shoemaker, a much-traveled veteran of the civil war. They would divorce, marry again, and then divorce a second time. And these facts do not begin to describe the drama in their relationship. Their only child, Minnie, was born a year and a half later somewhere in Lucas County according to an 1885 Iowa census, I suspect in or near Benton Township.[76] Minnie was a dwarf. She stopped growing when she was two, never exceeding 32 inches in height, and died in her early teens.

On June 19, 1876 another boy came into the Ream family, their ninth child. They named him Mitchell Centennial Ream. The name would have been even more perfectly accurate if he had been born just 15 days later.

According to Nancy Ream's obituary, 1877 was the year that she "united" with the Adventist church, a congregation of which had not yet been established in Benton Township. On September 7th her daughter Emma successfully sued Mart for their first divorce on the grounds of two years of desertion. It was probably that fall that Nancy and Mitch's oldest son Will began teaching school.[77] That could have only been during the late fall or winter when he was not needed on the farm, since the other boys would have been only one, four, and eight years old.

On July 27, 1879, Ida Maud Ream was born. By the end of that year the population of the city of Chariton had reached 2,977, having risen from 1,728 in 1870. Benton Township had 713 people. It had no train, but there was a saloon, a blacksmith, and a dry goods store. There were seven school houses, seven teachers, and 314 pupils "who ought to go to school." There was an RLDS group of 30 people, which had started in 1877. The Adventists arrived in 1879. Sampson and Nancy Ream were original members of an Adventist congregation of 25. The two groups shared the Palmer school house for meetings on weekends. Benton Township was known for all kinds of farming, producing the best cattle and butter in the area.

On June 20, 1880 the U.S. census for Benton Township showed that all eight of their living children were living with Mitch and Nancy including Emma Webb. I could not find her daughter Minnie there. In fact, I can't find Minnie or Mart anywhere in that period. I

[76] According to Find a Grave Index, Minnie was born on November 21, 1875 in California. I think the date is right, but the location must be an error. In a letter written to Nora, Emma said she had never been out West, although Mart had spent many years there. It is possible, but seems unlikely that he took Minnie with him to California.
[77] History of Bear Lake Pioneers, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Bear Lake County, Idaho, p. 647.

assume that Minnie was with him. Martin's parents were living at the time in Pleasanton, Decatur County right on the Missouri border about 50 miles away, but neither Martin nor Minnie were with them. The census also noted that 18 year old Anna Ream was attending school and that Will, now 20, was a farm laborer, probably on his father's place.

By July 1, 1880, Nancy's Aunt Jane Art was living in Richland Township, Warren County, just east of Palmyra with her son Alexander Young Art and his wife and 5 children. She was with him in nearby Palmyra for the state census in 1885.

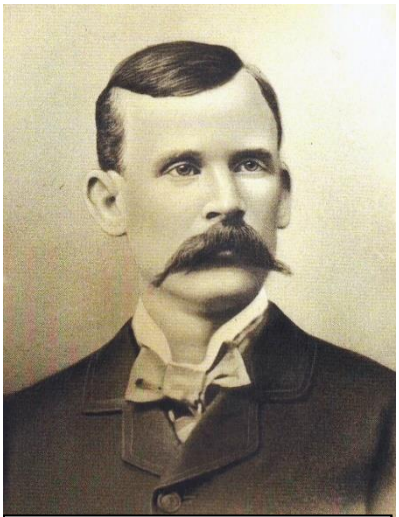
Alexander Art and Sarah with family

Nancy's sister Mary Ann Murphin Mercer died at White Breast Township at age 32 on August 26, 1880. Her oldest daughter Kitty age 14 had died had died 12 days earlier. It appears that Mary Ann may have died in childbirth with a baby boy who also died.

It is hard to track the young lives of Mitch and Nancy's children. Much is missed between occasional death records and records from the U.S. census in 1870 and 1880. To make matters more difficult, there are no available records from the 1890 census—they were famously destroyed in a fire in 1921.

The 1880 census notation that the Reams had only one child in school is quite misleading. For one thing, the census was taken in the middle of summer. Mitch's biography,[78] although it was written in 1896 after most of the children had married and moved out, sheds a little more light on the kids' education:

All of the children have received good educational privileges, and several have been successful teachers. Mrs. Burns (Edith) *taught for some time in Lucas County, and also a number of terms since her removal to Oklahoma. William has been a teacher in Iowa, Nebraska and Oklahoma, and John has had experience in teaching both in Jackson and Lucas counties.*



William Dewine Ream

One would think that to become a teacher would require more than an average schooling, and secondary education was probably not available locally for the older kids. From the letters collected later by Will's wife, Nora, we know that Will enrolled briefly in a business school in Burlington in November, 1881.[79] Burlington was 130 miles east of Benton Township, about 35 miles up the Mississippi River from Nauvoo. If Will taught in Iowa, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, it

[78] *A Memorial and Biographical Record of Iowa*, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1896, page 1151.
[79] See page 34 and 39.

must have happened prior to his move to Utah on May 10, 1882.[80] According to Will's daughter-in-law Mamie Sirrine Ream,[81] Will had to buy himself a year's freedom from his father to come west to seek his fortune. He never moved back to Iowa. He told his children that he had always hated corn. Will married Nora Crockett in Logan, Utah, and moved to a homestead in Dingle, Idaho.[82]

On August 8th, another boy was born to the Reams. They named him Durward Bellmont Ream.

I have no idea how or why Emma and Martin Webb came back together, but they were married for a second time on August 26, 1882, resuming their rocky relationship. Of Emma, her brother Will once wrote, *the most promising feature of her character would be hard for me to tell, but I believe affection has the preference. She loves to extreme and hatred the same way.* The Webbs lived in Palmyra, Warren County, Ohio about 37 miles north of Chariton.

On August 27, 1883 the volcano Krakatoa erupted in Indonesia, killing over 36,000 people. It may have been a mystery to the Iowans why the sky darkened and winter came early that year. The entire world was smoky. The sky was darkened for years and the whole world enjoyed spectacular sunsets. Weather remained erratic and temperatures did not return to normal until 1888, having dropped on average 2.5 degrees worldwide.

I believe that Mitch was struggling to run the farm that year. He made a financial offer to Will, hoping to entice him to return. I don't have that letter, but I do have Will's reaction as he explained it to his fiancé, Nora Crockett in October, 1883. *Nora I received a letter from home and it stated that if I wanted to farm I could have a team without cost. "The Idea." I would like to have the money they would sell for, but farming I have no taste for any more. Besides, I do not want to go back there. Would like to see the folks all very well, but do not want to live there now.* Mitch would have to make do with 14 year old John. Ironically, Will was soon to be deeply engaged in farming in Idaho, and not able to escape it for another 40 years.

Emma and Martin Webb came down from Palmyra to spend Christmas of 1883 with the Reams. Emma wrote to Will about it. *Pa did not raise any corn to amount to anything. We let him have some money.* Evidently Nancy had written Will a Christmas letter at about the same time, applying a little maternal psychology to coax him to return. In a letter to Nora, Will reported: *I received a letter from home...and got your picture back. They like the looks of you real well. Mother wanted me to bring you home next fall...if I was not ashamed of them. You would like to go would you not?*

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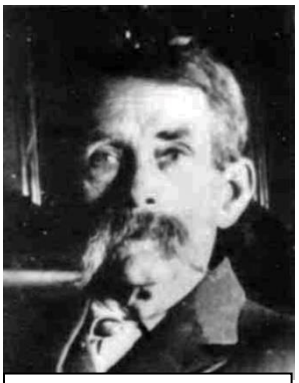
[80] http://dingleream.org/archiveimages/hi-res/series3-0698.pdf.

[81] History of Bear Lake Pioneers, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Bear Lake County, Idaho, p. 648.

[82] Section I.


Jim Cain

On May 1, 1884 the Reams' second daughter, Anna Sadora Ream, known variously as Anna or Dora, married James Morris Cain in Chariton. They moved to Nebraska soon afterwards, but moved back to Warren County for the winter, living with the Webbs. Jim Cain was the son of a carpenter, who had moved his family from Ohio to Richland Township in Warren County about 30 miles north of Chariton when Jim was an infant. Jim worked as a plasterer and brick mason. They moved to Nebraska and back a couple of times during their early marriage, but eventually settled down in Warren County.

In August Will again wrote to Nora that his parents were giving him incentives to return to Iowa. *Got a letter from Mother....She is very disappointed at our not coming back this fall. She speaks more favorably this time of you than heretofore. They make me another offer if I will go back, but I don't see how I can, a very good one, too.* I really believe they were offering him the Iowa farm. As we will see, the next two boys, John and Jim were not really interested in it. Evidently, neither was Mitchell Centennial. As it turned out, it was Durward, the youngest boy that remained in Benton Township.

Later that month, Emma wrote to Will that a terrible storm had hit Palmyra. *Stock were killed, houses were unroofed....Most of our neighbors left their houses and went to their caves.* I wonder if this harsh weather was fallout from the distant volcano.

Emma repeatedly mentioned in her letters to Will that "Pa" had visited, usually without Nancy. There may have been a convenient train connection between Chariton and Palmyra. If so, there may be no story behind it. However, I wonder if the marriage situation or Mitch's debt to Mart may have played a role. And why did Nancy seem to stay home when Mitch visited Palmyra? About this time, early February, 1885, Will's friend and business partner from Dingle, Frank Larsen, dropped by Chariton on his way back from a trip to Boston. Then he made the trip to Palmyra to visit the Webbs. This visit seemed also to be about money. I think both Mitch Ream and Martin Webb had invested in some scheme of Will's and Frank Larsen's that did not pan out. Frank told Emma that he and Will would come back the following fall.

June 2, 1885 Mitch and Nancy's last child was born, Elda Lena Ream. Nancy was 46 years old.

On September 10th Susanna Clark Ream, Mitch's mother, died at the home of Mitch's youngest sister, Nancy Ream Bell, at Quenemo, Kansas.

On November 11, 1885 Will and Nora Crockett were married in Logan, Utah. They took a long honeymoon in Chariton with Will's friends and family, not arriving back in Utah until March.

In the following year, 1886, there were a couple of notable family events. Nancy's sister, Amanda Murphin Smith's only child, Clement Noble Smith married and moved to Elmwood,

Nebraska. Then on August 22nd Will and Nora had their first child, William Wesley Crockett Ream. Edith, then 20, wrote to Will and Nora to acknowledge the birth of Wesley, who was said to look like her, so she knew he was pretty. *Sorry to hear of your bad accident. I really was surprised to hear of my little nephew that looks like me. I know he is pretty beyond a doubt.* She gave much news of the Ream family in Iowa. There is enclosed a slender paper with the words *Grandmas hair swatch.*

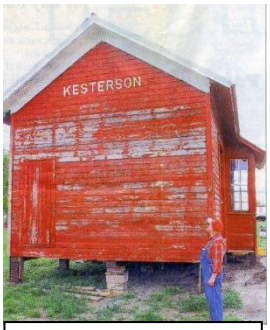
In March, 1887, John Paul Ream moved to Palmyra to work for Martin Webb for $20 per month, planning to stay until fall. He would turn 17 in June. He was writing because there were financial issues between Will and Mart. He wrote, *Em wants me to see you about that note she thinks you won't pay it and she is fretting herself to death about it....Don't sleep more than half the time. I tell her you will pay it....If you don't pay it I will for it is an honest debt and ought to be paid. Now I tell you if you can't pay it all I will help you all I can for I want it cleared up....Let me know about the matter and we will settle it sure....Just as soon as I get $500 I am coming west to make a case or loose. Pa and the boys is running the farm....I have completed all of my books that is country books and received my Diploma and several good recommends....I want to teach school this winter and make a little money. If I had plenty I would study law but I have not got enough money....Emma wants that money in May or June.*

It appears that John was following Will's footsteps, hoping to escape the family farm by getting an education. It must have been a disappointment to their father, who kept losing his boys as soon as they could go out on their own. This seems to be confirmed in Nancy's letter two months later from Chariton, which I'll include it in full here. It gives a picture of her life and personality that I could not convey in any other way. I'll include her original, quaint phonetic spelling for the same reason. If you get frustrated, it helps to read it aloud.

Nancy Murphin Ream

Dear Childern again I try to right to you. I have ben sick. I have to work to hard. I hav all the work to doo senc Edith went home with An. It is to much for on to do spashley old and weekley like me. Pa thinks he aint able to hier help but he will soon hav to hier it all. Jim got diner and tha had bred and milk for breckfust. I feal beter and thinking of you. I remember we hav not answerd you letter. Pa said to tell you that he could not tell you about the catel for it was so dry hear that we did not rais much and it is still dryer this spring. We hav onley had on little shower this spring. it onley wet the top of the ground and if it dont rain soon we will not rais eney thing. Tha childern is all well. john was home and staid a week and left to day for Marts. He sais Em leedes a life. Mart is allwas talking about that money that you ow them. Em says that if you don't pa them sum this month that she will have to lev him for she cant stand it. Will if you can pa them sum. Dont think that I am anchus for you to pa the morgage. If I had the waiting to doo I would wait a long time. You now that I don't hav much to say in such things ur you would fiar beter. Well my head akes and I must quit this time right soon. Right to Pa. Keep on the good side of him for you ar alwas on the good sid of me. Kiss Nora & Baby for me and think how I would like to see you all you could knot guess. Tell Nora to right to Pa how he aprishedated hur letter. Rite

to me often. Com and see me when you can. Edith is dooing well. She roat to me that she could get a chool this winter and git fortey dollers & fur made. The like hur well. John gets our chool. Frank did not stop… The rest is missing.



Kesterson Depot

Edith had secured a teaching job in Kesterson, Nebraska, a depot on the Burlington Railroad near the present town of Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska. It existed between 1882 and 1927 and probably never had more than about ten people. On May 22, 1887 she wrote to Will in Dingle, Idaho. *I have taught five weeks of school getting $30 per month. I had the mumps, had to dismiss school one week….I come to Jims and Dora's* (Cain) *every Friday evening. I will visit Nora and Will before I return to Iowa unless sickness takes me back. Bessie is…big and fat* (Dora's baby). *How is WWCR* (Will and Nora's baby, Wesley, who was born the previous August) *getting along?*

On June 28th, John wrote this to Will: *Your check was good for a hundred dollars. ..Pa will return the rest of the money today….Mother started for to see Edith today.*

From this we learn that Nancy had made the trip out to Nebraska to visit Edith as well as Nora and Jim Cain. The mystery of the debt gets deeper here for me. Obviously Will had paid at least part of it back. But why did the check go to Mitch, and not Mart? Did he owe both of them? And to where was Mitch returning the "rest of the money?"

On August 26th, Emma and Mart's daughter died of spinal meningitis, probably not related at all to her dwarfism. It broke Emma's heart. Minnie Webb was just eleven. Nancy informed Will and Nora immediately, but at the end of September she sent a long letter to Nora with the details.

Well Norah I hav just got home from Emmas. I roat you a card at Palmira & told you hat Miney was ded. Ema sendes you a piece of hur roabe and flours. Ema took it ofel hard. I dont believe she wil get over it. She was sick eneyhow. She told me to tell you to send hur the money you ow hur & then Mart will be beter to hur. She sais that she don't want to liv as she has been. She wants to gett Miney a monument with it. Hur head is set on it. She is a obgect of pitey. If you can posiable send it doo so. If not right & tell me. Mart gives it to me. He sais that it takes all the money to run the church & bands of the runaways. Well Pa got Wessley pictur. We all think he is very pertey. He looks like Nora. Pore littel Miney suffered so much. She died with the spinel feaver. Thair was a big funrel tha furs from indenolia. From your Ma

Enclosed in Nancy's letter was this brief note from John. He was making good on his plan to become a teacher. *Well Nora I got a certificate and a good one too average 91%. Haven't got a school for certain. John*

Will and Nora had their second child on March 18, 1888 and named him Mitchel[83] after his grandfather. Will's little brother Jim, now 15, wrote his congratulations from Benton. To

[83] Although they spelled it with only a single "L."

Nora: *Glad to hear I was uncle again....Well what are you going to call the Big Boy—Grover Cleveland, of course....I am coming out there after a while.* To Will: *I would like to come out if I can sell my young team.*

Ma (Nancy Ream) added her congratulations and some dubious advice. *Does the baby look like his grandma?...If you would knot think I was medling, if you don't want eney moar babeys soon I send yo one of Ema helth remedys. She don't hav eney babes & is stout & fat now...Mart Webb started to Idaho yesterday.* I wonder if collecting the debt was on Mart's mind.

In the meantime, Edith was doing fine at her teaching job in Nebraska. On May 15th she wrote to Will: *Ma wrote for me to come home but I was not satisfied at home and did not want to go. I am teaching about twenty five miles from Dora's. I get $33 a month but board is $2.50.* Not being satisfied at home seems to be a theme among several of the children.

Sometime in May of 1888 John eloped with Anna Telia Erickson. He was 18 and she was 15. So much for his law school plans. I know of this through a letter that Nancy wrote to Will in February the following year when she finally found out about it.[84] John had kept it a secret from Nancy and Mitch for nine months because Mitch had opposed the marriage. It wasn't a shotgun wedding; their first baby was not born until a year later.

Will learned from John that Edith had returned home from Nebraska and was staying with Emma and Mart. She was planning on teaching again the next year. Will, obviously not yet aware of John's secret marriage, suggested that if they wanted to teach, they might as well both come on out to Utah or Idaho to do it.

There is more on the money issue. I found among Nora's letters a court subpoena issued dated July 18, 1888 ordering two Dingle men, John Grimmett and James P. Nowland to appear in the Bear Lake County Courthouse to testify in a court case between Will and his business partner, Frank Larsen. Frank was suing Will. The business in which Martin Webb and possibly Mitch Ream had invested was being contested.[85]

On August 2nd Jim Ream wrote to Will from Chariton. He had not been getting along with their father Mitch, and had been planning to go out to Will's ranch in Idaho, but ran into an unexpected difficulty. *I have been having some bad luck. I had a colt which I was expecting to come out there with and the blamed thing died about two weeks ago....I am in debt on that a little. I have the money coming to me (with) which I will make things all square....I and the old man can't get along together. He have gave me my freedom. We had a rucket (ruckus?) in the spring and ever since I have got my own clothes....He never got me a suit of clothes in his life....If you come out this winter we will go back together....I don't think there will be any trouble about that mater. I think we can get along all right.*

[84] See page 216.
[85] Page 93.

John Paul Ream

John, now 18, was hoping to come as well. He was attending normal school, boarding at home and driving to work each morning, trying to earn a teaching certificate. *I promise to come out this fall, if not, in the spring. I have got a pretty good thing offered me for making stump speeches this fall and then if I can get a school I think I had better teach, it will help fit me up for business when I do come. I want to have it so when I come I can stay a while. If you think you can beat F. L. honestly and of course you won't try any other way, maybe I can assist you financially, that is if you give what you said. Hold him and that other dam heathen down if you can. Don't let them get the best of you if you can. Edith is about well. She is staying with Em. Come back this fall and maybe I will go back with you.* It appears that John and probably the rest of the family were aware of Will's lawsuit with Frank Larsen. I wish I knew who the "other dam heathen" was.

A day later Jim wrote again. *I didn't get to see your letter. John got it and opened and lost it. He said you want me to come out there. Well by Joe, Bill, I was awful glad to hear it. When are you coming back? I will be ready to go out with you there. Recollect I am my own boss. I and Pa couldn't get along together and so he said I could do for my own self....If you want me to come out next spring come back and I will go with you. So hoping you will come.* Jim would be 15 in October.

On August 18, 1888 came another letter from Jim, written on stationary from a men's clothing store in Chariton, possibly a sign that the now emancipated teenager was paying for his own clothing. *We are all well except Pa. Pa said many thanks for naming your boy after him. He said it would make a good man if he ever done the works he has done. Well maybe I am coming out in the spring if nothing happens. Edith is better. She is up at Em's.* Then in September, Will gave more hints about the business issue in a letter to Nora, still in Preston. *I had a letter from John Ream and an enclosed one from Mart—one he wrote to Pa....He wants to sell Pa the note....He says he thinks Larson and I are working a game of some kind....He offers it for $25 less that it calls for....I have just made an offer for it. John is teaching the Union school.*

So John definitely was not coming that fall—he had secured a teaching job in Union Township, just 12.5 miles west of Benton Township. This clarifies the note, I think. It looks as if Mart made a loan to Will and Frank Larsen and was now trying to sell it to Mitch at a discount.

Jim did not go to Idaho that fall either. Evidently he decided to go to Nebraska with Edith, who had decided to return there to teach another year. I am inferring this from an undated letter from their mother Nancy to Nora. Here it is, in Nancy's inimitable style.

My Dear Childern. I will try to right you a few lines. I hav very pore helth. I haint seen a well day since I came home from Nebraska. The water thair mad me sick. I found Edith nearley

ded. O she had such a dedley look I dident think she wood liv to get home. We started from Kesterson at ten in the morning and got to Corning Iowa at ten in the knight Saturday and staid with John Murcer and Caley my brothern in law and sisters chilldern. thair is four of them at home. Saley code too charley tha are dooing well. We staid over Sunday at murcers and it rested us. Then we got home Monday. Edith had not set up once over for to weeks till she started for home but she is beter. Mart came down. he is practon medison and he said he could cure hur and bord and nurce hur free and she went home with him. He staid on a week to let hur see that he could help hur and she was lots beter. I worked so hard the week that Mart was hear that it lade me up. I hav to keep a hyerd girl this week. I thot it was so nice to visit as I went to Jims that I would go to see you next spring. Well take good cair of your Boys. I would lov to see them and you and Will and I think that I will if I liv till next spring. I want you to send for your Ma when I come out. I want to visit with hur. I no I would lov her. What has became of friend Larson and how did him make the settlement. Did he get the best of Will? Well Nora we got a letter from Will and he said you was at Logen and so I will finish my letter and sent it to Logen. I wish I was hair to take cair of the Babeys for you. Will roat he was coming back this fall. O I wish you wood come. You can get a excusion and it wont cost much. O doo come if you can. We expect Will to come with that friend that was shipen cattel last fall. Well Nora rite and tell me how you ar all geting along and what is the troubel with Frank and what tha ar Lawing about and how Will hapened to get the best of him. Kiss the Babeys for ma. My lov and well wishes is for you. N. E. Ream.

In case you had difficulty reading that, Nancy found Edith nearly dead and brought her home on the train, stopping at her brother-in-law's house in Corning, Iowa. John Mercer was the widower of Nancy's sister Mary Anne Murphin, who had died eight years earlier. Her husband had married a woman named California "Caley" Mitchell.

After Nancy got back to Benton, Mart came down from Palmyra—he was now practicing medicine—said he could cure Edith and wouldn't charge for services or room and board if he couldn't. After her nice visit to Jim, Nancy had decided she could make the train trip to Utah, and wanted to come that spring if she wasn't "ded" yet to help Nora with the boys, hoping Nora's Ma would come up to help her in Dingle. She had questions about the legal settlement between Will and Frank Larsen. She wanted Nora to come out to Benton Township with Will, from whom she was expecting a visit that fall.

Shortly after that, Elijah Webb, Mart's father, died in Decatur County. He was 73. He willed his property to his wife, who lived until 1908. I was able to find the probate documents. It did not go to Mart.

John wrote again on November 28, 1888 well into his new teaching job. *I have begun my winter term of school. Have taught almost two weeks of school. I board at home and that gives me a 3 miles walk. I start from home before sunup and don't get home until dark. I get $30 per month, only have 18 scholars enrolled....The folks are done gathering corn. I think they raised 1200 bu. of corn, Pa will put off some Hogs next month. Edith is getting better slowly....The rest of us is well....You can inform Nora that I have nothing against her in the*

world although she never answered my last letter I think just as much of her as anyone that breathes God's pure air. I heard you was selling books again.

Nancy Ream wrote to Nora in February, 1889, thanking her for the Christmas gifts that they sent the family. *We got your presents. Tha was so nice every body brages on them that sees them. We think tha ar so nice becas you maid them. Pa shoes his hankierchief to every body that comes. Dood* (Durward) *thinks so much of his socks that he wont wear them. I hav let the girl take paterns off on my lace but tha cant make it so nice. John is mared to aney Erickson. tha run off last May & was married & kept it a secret untill too weeks ago. Tha told us Pa aposed it. John thot he would drive him off but he dident. He was fixed to come to you & Will but it is all right now & tha will moove on hur brothers place that is one mile sath of us. Pa wont giv him the watch & fiftey. He is feeling bad about it. Edith is still sick. I don't think she will ever get well. She is in Chariton doctorn this week & will stay one month. Will roat that he was going to let you come home this Spring. O I wish you would com. I would love to see you & the to littel Boys. doo come & Will come to. You ma see us all if you come this spring but if not you wont bee likley to see us all. How I wish you would com & liv hear while I liv so I could see you ofton. We hav had bad luck. We lost the best horse Logan the best cow & the fine colt worth one hundred. Tha was forsend (frozen?) if you was hear you wouldent blam me not to let you visit them folks* (I think the last page is missing.) John's young wife Anna was six months pregnant at the time of Nancy's letter. Their first baby, Chester Fred Ream, would be born 3 months later May 14th and sadly died at age 3 months.

Then in March of 1889, Emma's tumultuous marriage to Martin Webb fell apart again in a horrifying manner. Evidently Mart was now heading west, possibly to collect his money. Emma wrote an urgent letter from Palmyra to Will on the 22nd. Worried that he had not received it, she sent a similar one to Nora in Logan, where she was teaching school.

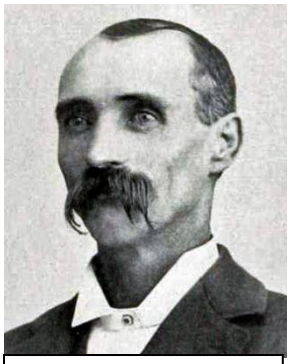
To Will she wrote: *Will don't pay that note to Mart. He has left me again. He put me under the influence of Morphine and made me sign the deed for the farm and left the next day before I was out from under the effect. He has been gone one week today. I can just sit up. There is one hundred dollars reward offered for him....Put as many on his track or if you see him or hear of him have him arrested as soon as you can. He took everything. He told some of them here he was going back there to his money. I am going to notify every post master. I have got nothing to live for only to hunt him down.*

If Mart comes there for that money, tell Will not to pay him one cent of it but have him arrested as soon as he sees him, for he has gone again. I was sick....I am just able to be up now....He has wrong(ed) me. I am alone today. None of them from here has been to see me. He tried to make them all enemies to me like he made you and Will. I have got nothing to live for now. Minnie is gone and my heart is broken.

An April 19, 1889, Nancy chimed in. *Dear Childern. Will my Dear boy it has ben a long time sinc I hav herd from you. Did you get Emas letter. She sent it to Montpeliar. Mart left hur fore weeks ago. Toock everything but what she had in hur s—t. He giv hur sum kind of medison that she did not know eneything for severl dais. Tha think she would hav died if tha had not*

had a doctor Mereta. He sold the farm and told hur he had bot near to indolia (Indianola, 35 miles north of Chariton) sutch a nice plaice. Em had seen it and thought it so nice but he giv hur the medison than sine the deed at ten oclock at knight. Left in the moring to by the farm. Bruces bot the farm and tha went to indiola and got him the money. The deed calls for fortey dollars pur akers but he onley got thirtey. Ema has sued Brooses for the other ten dollers pur aker. The suit comes off in augest. Ema requested me to rite to you and tell you if Mart comes thair to hav him arested and send him back. She roat to Frank the saim. She said for you not to pay that money to Mart nor to eney on that he can get it. Keep it for hur. She will soon bee penaless if she dont get eneything on the plaice but tha say she can get the ten dollers whitch will bee the forth. I haint seen hur since Elda was sick with a feever. Edith is still not abel to doo eneything. She has ben sick a year. Jim Cain and Dorey (Anna Sadora Ream) is living in hartford. (Just southeast of Des Moines, 35 miles north of Chariton.) *Tha least thar plaice in Nebraska for three year. Tha will sta that long in Iowa. cant you come home and see us again. Fetch Nora and the babeys. O we would bee so glad to see you all again. Well I must close for I am going to see Ema in the morning fore oclock train. I haint ben thair since tena died last spring.*[86] *Will, watch out for Mart. Don't let him take the advantedge of you. Treat him like a murder. He has thretend you. now watch for him and hav him arested. We can send him over the road for good rit soon and tell me if you hav seen ur heard from him. From your Ma. N.E. Ream.*

Then this letter came to Nora from Emma. She had gotten her feet back under herself and was moving forward. I think that the man who bought the farm from Mart was James Wilson Bruce, a 41 year old farmer in Palmyra, who had come to Iowa as a child in about 1855 with his father Moses from Highland County, Ohio. It seems possible that the family may have known Reams or the Murphins there, having moved west about the same time as Alexander Young Art. If so, the betrayal must have been even more painful for Emma.



James Wilson Bruce

May 1--Sister Nora, your kind letter was a comfort to me to know that you had not forgotten me and would still write. Nora, I never can write what trouble I have went through since I last saw you but if ever I am permitted to see you I will tell you all Mart has made my life miserable for fifteen years and the last seven was the worst. The best thing he can do is to stay away from Palmyra since the people has found out what he has done. I will have to stay in Palmyra until after the August term of court. I have entered suit against Bruce, the man that bought the farm, for it can be proven that there was a conspiracy against me and if we can prove that Bruce and the officer was implicated in the conspiracy and the attorney and people thinks there will be no trouble in doing it, I will get my third of the land back. I have employed the best attorney in Indianola (11 miles west of Palmyra) *and he told me last week not to worry, that everything was developing nicely in my favor. I have good witnesses, good reliable men and women that is willing to come and tell*

[86] Teenia Murphin was Nancy's niece, the daughter of her brother James. Teenia died June 1, 1888 in Warren County, Iowa.

how he has wronged me. I have good kind hearted friends. Friends that will sympathize and try to heal the wound that is made so deep in my heart but that can never be done. I just long to lay beside Minnie and be at rest where I will never know any more of this world's troubles. I am going to try and run my shop till after August then I will close it and leave Palmyra for a while. Mr. Art let me have money to buy my spring goods to start in my shop again. If I have as good luck selling as I did last summer I can pay him back and live. Sister Ann and her baby was here last week. They are at Mr. Cain's this week. They are talking some of living here this summer if Jim can get work. I do wish they would live here this summer. I don't think I would feel so lonely. I will close my letter sending my love to you all. From Emma.

Mart did not go very far. The new farm that he coveted was only eleven miles away in Indianola. I don't know whether Mart ever went to Idaho for his money. Although the lawsuit between Will and Frank Larsen had not come to an end, Emma was hoping to collect on the note from Will. Dora and Jim Cain did not come to Palmyra to stay with her as Emma had hoped, but they were close by in Hartford, where Jim had found work. Another family member was living in Hartford as well, Nancy's cousin Alexander Art with his wife Maggie. You will recall that Alex was the first of all the family to move to Iowa from Ohio and had become a prominent citizen. Emma was soon living with the Arts, and Emma's unmarried sister Edith was there too. On September 17th Edith reached out to Nora on behalf of Emma to try to get the money sent.

Dear Nora, as Emma is very busy she requested me to write to you for her. She has had a very lame side. She was thrown out of a cart and the injury caused neuralgia in her side. Mr. and Mrs. Art and their three oldest boys have gone north to the lakes on a hunting tour, so Em has more than she is able to do taking care of the things. They have just finished making butters and jells. They had so many grapes this year. Apples are plenty, fifteen cents per bushel. She has two little boys to take care of and they are so mischievous they keep one busy to look after them. Em says she is glad you won the suit and will make a settlement anyways near right. Write the terms on which you wish to settle. What must she do and in what way to bring about a settlement. I have written as she dictated as near as I could. This is all as I do not feel well this morning. It may be Em will find time to write some. Would be pleased to hear from you. Written by ELR for Emma.

I wish I knew more about both lawsuits. I have no more letters that year or through the first half of 1890 between Iowa and Idaho. July 23, 1890 a patent was issued for quarter section 160 acres 1.5-2.0 miles east on 5th south (cemetery road) in Dingle to Frank Larsen. On September 11, 1890 Lee Emerson Ream born on the Dingle homestead shortly after Nora returned from Preston. On October 13, the WD Ream homestead was officially "proved up." This suggests that he had filed for that section five years earlier, in 1885 just before their marriage.

The next letter in our possession from Benton Township came on May 31, 1891 from Jim. He wrote this to Nora: *The children has just got over the measles. They had a hard time of it. Well, Nora you said you haven't heard from Mother. She has written two letters and has not*

gotten an answer from you....We thought you was all dead, or awful mad....Well Nora, John has got another big boy (Lester Firman Ream) *and Dora a big girl* (Edith Kathryn Cain). *You haven't said what you called your last baby.* It was Fabian Dewine Ream. *This is the worst place we live I ever seen. We can't have a bit of fun, it seems that they are all damned deadbeats that lives around here....Well I want you and children to come out and see us. I would like to see my little nephews. Edith is coming home about the fourth of July. Whether she will bring her old man with her or not. She said she was going to get married, but did (not) say where.*

He wrote briefly to Will, unfortunately some is illegible. *Will: You wrote about that money. It is not much. He is (saying he wants) you pay it. Only if Christan* (Did he mean Martin?) *wants it he will come on the old man and he will come on you. It looks like you could compel Larson to sign the papers and lease that piece of land out and give the mortgage on the rest of it.* It sounds to like the conflict with Larson had still not been settled completely.

On June 12, 1891 Nancy wrote another of her wonderful letters. She could never spell worth a darn, but she sure was entertaining and full of news.

Dear childern it is again I try to rite to you not hearing from you for so long that I thought you had mooved away to som foreign contry and left us no trac of your wherabouts. The last letter I got from you, you said you would ansur every letter I would rite. I hav roat too, Jim one ur too. I was just a going to right to larson asking if you was ded ur mooved away. Well it is so straing to hear you acusing me of beeing mad. I never got mad without a cas. If you have give eney cas I hav not comperhended it yet. Onley you dont right often as I wish you to and tell me about the childern. You dident even tell the name of your babey. I would lov to see them O so well but it is imposiabel unless you come home. I am to feabel to travel a lone. I hav nearly got the paralises I shake so. Pa and John talks of coming to see you next fall if thair is cut rates on the fair. Well cant you come home and see us onst more. I would lov to see your littel famley. Well I must tell you a bout the childern. An lives in Alia. She has three childern Besey, Mitchey, Snow Eme lives at A y arts (Alexander Y. Art's) *his wife died in Jenuary. Ema has lived with them every sence Mart left. She workes by the week for hur liven. He left hur penless. John lives at lucas. Clark Baker hierd him a year to run his farm thirtey pur month. He was down on deckeration day. He has a nother boy seven weeks old now. Edith she is in Oklahoma a town called Norman. She is inaged to bee mared in december. I got a letter from Edith. she said mabey she would com home in vacation of hur chool. She teaches in the coledg. She got a surtificate for five years but I guess she will teach one choller. His name is Gorge Burnes. He is thirty a nice looking man I seen him when I was thair and I hav his pictor if you would like to see him. I will send you the pictor. She roat mabey she would come home on the forth and sta threw July and Augest that is vacation. Jim is at home he is a good boy. We cant get a long well without him. Dood is good he workes well raised 2 hun chickings this spring. the rest is going to chool. From your pore old Ma. right soon and often. kiss the childern for me.*

On September 16, 1891 Edith Ream married George Walton Burns in Cleveland, Oklahoma.

Edith and George Burns

In 1893 there was a financial panic in the U.S. causing a severe three year depression beginning just before the inauguration of Grover Cleveland on February 20th, when the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, went bankrupt and the wheat market crashed. The latter must have had a severe effect on all of the Ream family.

Sometime after February, 1893 Nancy wrote another newsy letter. It was undated, but written before September, because John's boy Charley, whose birth she announced, died that month at seven months of age. Apparently the notes on the ranch had still not been paid to Mitch, who had apparently bought them out from Emma. Here's a partial transcription:

You roat a bout the notes. Yes Pa got them. You needent to hav sent them but you needent hurey to pa(y) them not atall....Anna (Dora)*...gone to moov to Chariton this spring. Ema still lives at A.Y. Art's. Edith still lives in Norman, Oklahoma. John lives near Lucas west of Chariton.* She wrote about exchanging family photos. Jim Ream was planning to go to the Oklahoma Cherokee Strip, which was opening up soon to homesteading. That must have been a great adventure for him. The government had opened 6 million acres of former Cherokee grazing land to homesteading. There were 40,000 potential homestead sites, but 100,000 "boomers" lined up for the opening on September 16, 1893. People began moving into position at the starting line as early as May to stake out their claims. Unfortunately, most of the boomers found that best spots were already occupied by "sooners," who had sneaked in ahead, jumping the gun. I suppose that if Jim and his friend actually participated, they didn't succeed. They probably stayed with Edith and her new husband George Burns while preparing for the great race.

Start of the Oklahoma land rush September 16, 1893 (Wikipedia)

In Dingle, Ida Nora, another Ream grandchild was born June 7, 1893. That year Will made a visit to his family in Chariton, leaving December 15th and staying for Christmas. He did not take his wife and children. Nora wrote to him that she was homesick. Will's brother Jim had written to her, but she had not answered it, hoping that Jim would come back with Will. It sounds like Oklahoma project had not worked out for him or he would have been in a cabin on the prairie.

Apparently Jim did return with Will to Idaho and stayed for the year. Jim found work in a mill. The next letter that I have from their mother Nancy was months later in October, 1894. She was angling for another visit from "Bill" and hoping as always, that Nora and the kids would come too. Nora had probably not been back to Iowa since her honeymoon nine years earlier. Here is Nancy's letter.

Jim roat and told me that he was comming Back this Month and we loock fore you. Wont you com Back and see us once more....Well Nora thear is nothing rased hear this winter. Know corne now. Know hay. Nothing to feed our stock on this winter. If we hade raised a good crop me and Pa was coming out this winter. But we cant come now. But will loock fore W. D and you back. Jim wrote and told us that you hade quite a snow out thear. We hant hade know snow back hear yet. But it is cold enough to snow. Well Jim is in the Mill yet. I suppose he wrote and said that he liked it awful well. I hop that he will stay with it. He wrot and said that he was saveing his money. I hope (he) will. He wood not do that hear. But he could not git along with Mitch. Thay wood quorrel al the time. So I hop hee will do well and lik it and save his mone and maby he will do Better when he comes Hom. Well this is all fore this time. Hopping to hear from you soon. From your Mother N. E. Ream.

I have no letters to tell me whether Jim returned that fall or even the next year in 1895. I'm quite sure that Nora did not go to Iowa as invited, for her mother was writing to her in Dingle from Logan.

On June 30, 1895 Emma Webb died at age 37 in Humboldt, Iowa, 130 miles north of Hartford, where she had been living with Alexander Art's family two years earlier. She was counted in Richland, Warren County in the Iowa state census of 1895. I have not been able to figure out why she went there, nor what caused her death. She was buried in the old cemetery at Chariton.

Jim Ream appears in an old photo of the Dingle Band with Hyrum and Alfred Oakey. He is not in the band but lying in the foreground (left) with some of the girlfriends of band members.[87] The date of the photo is not certain, but my guess is 1895, and it could have been in July, judging by the American Flag. Jim was home in Iowa in time for the 1895 census.

The biography of Sampson Mitchell "Mitch" Ream in the book of important citizens of Iowa was published sometime in the year 1896. The entry on Mitch must have been written a year earlier, since it lists Emma as still living, the "wife of Martin Webb of California." I

[87] The band photo is posted at FamilySearch.org with most of the band members identified. Look in Jim's memories section. His ID number is LHGZ-Y2Z.

have not been able to track Martin at all after he extorted the sale of the Palmyra property to buy a farm in Indianola. The wording in the biography makes me think he may have gone west permanently.

Mitchell C. and Mary Emma Ream

On January 22, 1896 Nancy and Mitch's fifth son, Mitchell Centennial Ream, married Mary Emma Miller in Lucas County. He was 19 and she was 22. I think they moved immediately to the town of Chariton to live. They lost two infants before Miller, their only child to live to adulthood was born October 18, 1900. They were definitely living in the town in 1910, where Mitchell sold farm implements.

On May 21, 1897 John Paul Ream was farming in Chariton. He was anticipating a large corn crop, but prices were low, and he thought it would be better to feed cattle. Since Will was raising cattle that year at his Dingle ranch, John wondered if Will could sent out two train carloads for him to feed. I don't know if that ever worked out.

Interestingly, John and Ann Ream must have been in Montpelier, Idaho on November 10, 1999, since their fourth son, Roscoe Emerson Ream was born there.

A month earlier, John's sister, Ida Maud, had married William Daniel Parsons in Chariton. She was 20.

On June 23, 1900 the census taker was in Benton Township. Jim was 27 and Durward was 17, so Mitch was probably relieved of doing the heavy work on the farm. Elda was 15. She and Durward were noted to be in school, although it was summertime. Dora and four kids, Bessie, Mitchell, Edith, and Ruby, ages 12-3, were there too. I suspect Dora's husband Jim Cain was away on a construction job somewhere. John and Anna were living next door. I suppose they had built themselves a house on Mitch's farm unless they were living in part of the family home. John was now 30 and had three kids: Lester, Eulala, and Roscoe, ages nine, two, and eight months. In that age gap between Eulalia and Roscoe had been an additional boy named Charley whom they had lost at age three months in 1893. John's occupation was given as farmer, so he may not have been teaching—maybe he taught in the winters.

Maud and W.D. Parsons

Ida Maud and W.D. Parsons were living in Benton. He was 22 and she was 21 and they did not yet have children, being only married a year.

Edith was in Norman, Oklahoma teaching at the Norman Territorial University, which had by then been established for ten years. It was to become the University of Oklahoma in 1907 when statehood was achieved. George worked as a day laborer. She and George had been married 9 years in 1900, but had no children. Sometime between 1910 and 1920 they adopted a daughter named Georgie Wood, who had been born in Oklahoma.

And, of course, the 1900 census also found Will and Nora in Dingle, with eight of their ten children. Milton was born the following year in 1901, and Kenneth in 1903. In that year Nora took three of her older children to Logan, Utah to enroll in school. Nancy was 64 years old and evidently came out on the train with Jim in October to help. Her oldest grandson Wesley wrote about it many years later in his own autobiography:

That year (1903) *Fabian, my sister Ida and I went to Logan. Grandmother Ream went to cook for us. Uncle James Ream, went to work as a painter.... We got...rooms with a family by the name of Petersen. It was about six or eight blocks south of the (Agricultural College). Fabian, Ida and I slept in one room. Grandmother and Uncle James had (another).... Fabian and Ida went to the Woodruff to school.*

It seems that Nancy and Jim did not go back to Logan after the Christmas holiday, but stayed with Will's family in Dingle, Idaho. Jim Ream may have been helping Will to begin his new house. At that time the family was still living in a much-added-onto cabin. It is hard to imagine the two visitors from Iowa that winter, crammed into the old Ream cabin with eight children. I do not know how long they remained there. It was probably at least until February when Wesley wrote home from school*. What does Uncle Jim do now and when is Grandma going?* I guess that Nancy probably went home early in the spring of 1904. By then, her youngest boy Durward was 23 and running the farm. This was good, for Mitch was no longer in a position to do much work.

The 1905 Iowa state census showed Mitch living at home with Nancy, Durward, and Elda. It must have been recorded at the very first of the year. Durward was 22 and Elda was 19. John Paul and Anna were living next door with their kids, ages one, six, seven, and fourteen. Some distance away Mitchell C. and Emma with Miller, age five, were also farming in Benton Township.

Sampson Mitchell Ream

On January 25, 1905 Sampson Mitchell Ream died after having experienced failing health for several months. From his obituary: (*He) died from liver trouble at his home in Benton Township on Wednesday....On December 15th he underwent a surgical operation for gallstones, and it was thought at one time that he might recover, but complications set in and all that science and medical skill could do proved fruitless and his death was quiet and peaceful. When he realized that he could not get well he said, it was God's will and he was ready to go. He (had) dug the first grave in the Chariton cemetery where he was (now) laid to rest.*

The Chariton Leader wrote, *He was one of the oldest and most highly respected residents of this county and the news of his death will bring sadness and sorrow to many hearts. By his genial disposition and kindly ways he had won a host of friends who will extend sincere sympathy to the grief stricken relatives...he was kind to orphans and deeply loved little children. He was a good neighbor, a true friend, upright in his daily walk and honest in his dealings....He was identified with First Adventist Church and fraternity he was a Master Mason...one of the noblest and best men that have ever graced the citizenship of Lucas County.*

Mitch wrote out his will just six days before he died. It was interesting, to say the least, and raised many questions for me. I'll summarize it, and then give a few observations. You may want to draw your own conclusions. There were basically four bequests. First, he gave the usual statement that all current debts, obligations and funeral expenses should be drawn from the estate. Second, he described 60 acres, which were to be divided equally among three of his twelve children: John, Dora, and Mitchell Centennial. Third, his youngest child, Elda, was to receive all household and kitchen furniture and a lien of $2,500 on the farm, to be paid in annual installments of $200-500 conditional on the farm's profitability. Fourth, his youngest son, Durward would inherit the remaining 300 acres and all other property, whether real or personal.

That stunned me. I expected that everything would go to Nancy, but there was nothing willed to her. I suppose it was just understood that the children would take care of her. As it turns out, she had other resources, possibly through the Art or Murphin families.

Three of his children preceded him in death. Samie and Nancy had died as small children. Emma, his oldest, had died ten years before he did, and her only child had died before her. At one time he may have owed Emma and her husband money for the note on Will's ranch in Idaho. He probably paid her long ago. It did not matter now.

But four of his living children were to receive no part of his estate: Will, Edith, Jim, and Maud. What was he thinking? What do those four have in common? My first thought is that these were the kids that he felt had deserted him. Will had left home 25 years earlier and only came back for infrequent visits. Edith had left 20 years previously and had become a successful educator in Oklahoma. But what about Maud and Jim? Mitch and Jim

had clashed, but Jim had mostly stuck with the farming until he was at least 27 years old, when two younger brothers had grown big enough to carry a man's share. It is true, that Jim had moved west before his father's death. But Jim probably needed the land or money more than any other of the boys. After all, John had clashed with Mitch, too. And why was Maud left out? She had married a local boy, settled into a farm in Benton Township, and lived there at least two years when her first boy was born in 1901. I do not know when Maud and William Parsons left for Montana. The first evidence that I have of them living there is the birth of their second son a year after Mitch's death. Probably they were already in Montana when Mitch died.

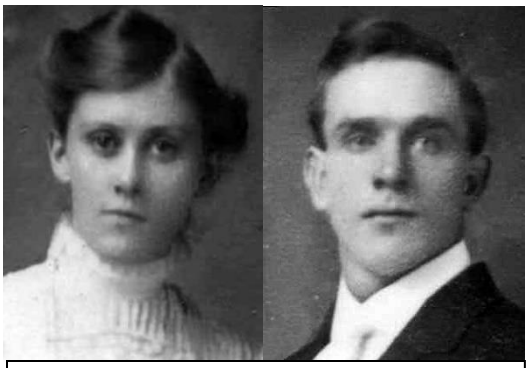
I have concluded that the reason for the unequal treatment of his kids was not resentment. Every child that received an inheritance was living in Lucas County. The two that received the most were living right in his house when he died. It was probably that simple. How could the children that did not live locally benefit from the property unless it was liquidated? And he did not want that.

Nancy was not well herself. She suffered from congestive heart failure. At some point after Mitch died, she and Elda moved to Des Moines, probably taking whatever furniture they needed with them. A city directory printed there in 1907 showed Nancy Ream, widow of S. Mitchell, residing at 1069 27th Street. Shown living at the same address was a boarder named Elda Ream, seamstress. They had left the farm house vacant for Durward, probably when it was clear that he was getting married. There may be more to Elda's story than that. What I'm about to say next is pure conjecture.

On Elda's page in FamilySearch is entered a husband by the name of Roberts. Some Ancestry.com patrons render his name as Richard Roberts, born in 1880. The marriage date is given as "about 1905," which would be the year of her father's death. There is a baby attributed to this marriage named Richard Roberts, said to have been "of Chariton" and with approximate birth and death dates of 1906 and 1907. To check this out, I have been able to document that a man with that name, who would have been about the appropriate age in 1906, lived in Spring Creek, Mahaska, Iowa. He was a 51 year old miner, who had never married. But I could find no document linking him to Elda.

If this is true, Elda and Richard Roberts may have produced a baby who died as an infant. The lack of marriage or birth records suggests that this was likely a common law relationship that possibly fell apart when an unexpected pregnancy happened. This may have led to the move of Elda and her mother to Des Moines.

On September 11, 1907, Durward Ream married Daisy Belle Myers in Benton. They lived in the family home and ran the farm.



Daisy and Durward Bellmont Ream

I don't know when Nancy returned to Chariton from Des Moines. I don't know which of her children took care of her in her last days. And I don't know whether she and Elda came back together. Maybe Durward's new wife was willing to care for her in her decline. John and Mitch C. were living with their families in the town of Chariton at that time, not in Benton Township. Her records state that she died in Chariton. Strictly speaking that would probably have been in the town, but it could have been on the farm. She died on October 7, 1909 at the age 69 of dropsy[88] and heart trouble. Her obituary: *Died on Thursday evening...at the age of 69 years...after a lingering illness with dropsy and heart trouble. Her funeral was held at the home of her son John P. Ream.*

I would love to know which of the children had been able to be with Nancy at the end of her life or at least to attend her funeral. Surely John, Mitchell C. and Durward were there, for they all lived close by. Dora lived in nearby Warren County. As the nearest daughter, she must have attended her mother's last days. Edith had a full time job in Oklahoma, but likely came at least for the funeral. I don't think that Elda was there, as I will explain in a moment.

From Nora's letter collection there is no indication that Will went to Iowa for the event, although there is no strong evidence against it. We do know that Will went as far as Grand Island, Nebraska on November 12th that year to the cattle market. He had written home two days earlier from Laramie, so I know that he had gone there from Dingle, not on his way home from the funeral.

But his brother Mitchell Centennial came to Idaho after their mother died. I know that because of a letter that Nora sent to her son Wesley on December 3, 1909, who was away at college. It contained this line: *Mitchel went east with Uncle Mitch with two cars of cattle. He intends to be back for Xmas.* There are a lot of people named Mitch in this story, so let me explain. She was speaking of her second son, Mitchel, and her brother-in-law Mitchell Centennial from Chariton (they actually spelled their names differently). I think they were taking some of Will's cattle east to be fed in Iowa, which was sometimes more profitable for the Iowa Reams than selling their corn when prices were low. And I suspect Mitchell C. may have been bringing money to Will from the settlement of their mother Nancy's estate. I say this because of another letter from their brother Jim, written on December 22nd.

Before you read that letter, let me give you a little background.

[88] Dropsy was the term for severe edema or swelling of the feet and legs, usually caused by congestive heart failure.

Jerome, Idaho is 215 miles from Dingle. At that time it was only a village, but a sort of boom town, that had not even existed until 1907. Jerome was developed late because it was on top of a cliff on the north side of the Snake River and too high for irrigation. The Oregon Trail and the railroad ran by on the south side through Twin Falls. When someone finally found a way to get irrigation water there, farmers rushed to settle it. By May, 1909, Jerome had 73 businesses in town, one newspaper, a cement block works, one milling and elevator company, two banks, four attorneys, three physicians, two veterinarians and three engineers' offices. A sidewalk had been laid to the new Idaho Southern Railway depot on south Locust, and the North Side Inn was nearing completion. And it had a professional house painter. The census of 1910 showed a household consisting of a house painter named James C. Ream, age 36, and his sister Elda L. Ream, age 24. Having missed his chance at the Oklahoma Strip, Jim was still hoping to make money on land speculation but seemed to be in trouble now.

James Clement Ream

This is Jim's letter to Will (his Iowa family always called him Bill): *Well Bill, I think you was mistaken when you wrote I demanded the $400 from you. M.C. wrote that mother wanted me to have that amount and you was to have $400, Maud $700, and the rest to go to her Grand Children. Now I wrote John a very nice letter in regards to what I was to have. M. C. said this money was to be paid in 1910-1911-1912 without interest. Now Bill you don't know my circumstances as well as I do. That $400 if John had of sent it I could have held out property here worth $2,700 which I was offered for it last Sept. I have been trying to sell it now for $2,000. I am up against it now. No friends and no money and am going to lose everything. I wish you would come up and look things over if I can raise the $400. I will be able to sell in April for $3,000 and if you feel as though there is a chance to make some easy money come at once. Elda isn't well and she worries all the time. It looks bad for me. If you was in my position you would be cranky I think. I have done my share for Elda. She has cost me over $600 for doctor bills and I am not complaining what I have paid out for her. Now Bill I wish you would come up. It will be worth your while. I will promise you won't lose anything and if you do come you will want to come at once. Hoping to see you or hear from you soon, Jim.*

This is interesting to me in several ways. First, both Jim and Elda must have already been there a substantial time in order for her to have run up doctor bills like that. And Jim must have had some financial success already to pay out that amount. They were both unlikely to have been present when Nancy died. He was not just painting houses but buying and selling property to profit from the land boom. It is a mystery to me why Elda was there with him. She must have come west about when Nancy returned home from Des Moines.

More interesting is the fact that there was money to inherit from Nancy's estate. She had money of her own, which may explain why she received none of Mitch's property when he died. And her money went to her grandchildren and to Jim, Will, and Maud, all of whom

had been left out of Mitch's will. Maybe Nancy was sending a message. Only Edith, the college professor, was apparently left out by both parents.

Jim spent the rest of his life in Idaho, most of it in Bear Lake County. He never married, and seemed always to struggle with finances, and possibly with drinking. I'll tell you what I know about him, mostly through Nora's letter collection.

After Jerome, he may have lived for a time in Soda Springs, Idaho, 38 miles north of Dingle. On April 11, 1917 Will's wife Nora wrote a letter to one of her children from there, where she was evidently teaching school or attending a continuing education conference. It contained the brief, but suggestive comment, *Jim has got a little work now.*

On January 15, 1920 according to the U.S. census, Jim was working as a house painter in Montpelier at the age of 47. I believe I heard once that he may also have worked for a grocery store there at some time. On November 7th of that year his name appeared in a letter that his oldest brother Will sent from Dingle to Nora, who had moved to Long Beach, California to teach school. *Jim leaves tomorrow for Cal--he said he did not know where...but you can look for him down there before many days....Help him to find a place and get him located.* I suspect Jim was drifting, maybe looking for some easy money. Nora probably suspected the same, as she answered, *Has Jim Ream a return ticket or not?*

Will's adult son Wesley spoke of Jim in his autobiography. When Wesley got a school teaching job in Lund, Idaho and had to move his young family from Dingle for the school year of 1921-22, he tried to help Uncle Jim out. He invited Jim to move from Montpelier to Dingle and take care of their 200 pullet chickens. Wesley furnished the feed and Jim got the eggs. Wesley helped Jim obtain a home in Dingle by paying the expenses to buy the rights from George Nate for 640 acres called Third Hollow across the main road from Wesley's property on the condition that Wesley be named to receive the property in Jim's will. On September 17, 1921, U.S. Department of Interior certified the homestead of James Ream in Dingle.

It is pretty clear that Wesley's mother-in-law, Sarah Sirrine, who lived close by, carefully looked after Jim. On November 6, 1921 Sarah gave the Reams an update: *Have not seen Jim Ream today.* She was keeping track. On January 2, 1922 Sarah wrote, *Jim was not feeling well when I left. He had rheumatism in his leg, could not get around...so I sent his milk to him.* She was taking care of him and of her own aging brother Tom Oakey, who had come to Dingle from Salt Lake. Two days later she wrote, *it was late when we got home, found Uncle Tom here. He has brought all his things back and says he is glad to get home again. He has been over to Jim's today, playing cards. Warren took him and brought him back again. Jim is lots better...ankle bandaged up but says it does not hurt him much. We took his milk over.* Jim and Tom kept each other company. *Jim was here tonight for his milk, said he would come over and play crib tomorrow.* Jim was 48. On April 19th Sarah mentioned him again: *Jim*

Ream came over this morning. He wants to see Wesley. He feels better and thinks he is going to get a job at Lifton.[89]

The last mention that I have of Jim was in a letter from Will to Nora on March 18, 1923. *Jim calls occasionally. Does not feel so very well.*

Jim died Jan 30, 1926 in Montpelier. I suppose that means he died in the hospital, for he had probably still been living in the shack on his Dingle homestead. On April 12, the deed to the homestead grant was issued and on April 22, the probate court awarded Jim Ream's property to his nephew Wesley Ream. It was an additional section of land for Wesley, doubling his holdings.

In the summer of 1942 Wesley completed a large vault in the Dingle cemetery, faced with stone from his own quarry, in which to inter his parents Will and Nora Ream, and their descendants. Uncle Jim's remains were transferred from his grave to an honored place in the family vault.

Elda and Leonard Feagans

I wish I knew more of Elda Ream's story. I don't know how long Jim had stayed in Jerome after they were shown together in the census on April 16, 1910, but by October 19th of that year Elda was already in Butte, Montana, marrying Leonard Winfield Walter Feagans, a painter. She called him Lin. Elda was 25 and Lin was 27. I do not know how this courtship happened so quickly, nor why Elda went to Butte. Perhaps she had been there before joining Jim in Jerome. Maybe Lin and Jim had worked together at some point before Jerome—they were, after all, both painters. Lin Feagans had been raised in Indiana where his family still had a painting business including a store. He was working for his father there when he was seventeen or younger along with two of his brothers. Elda's older sister Maud and her husband, William "W.D." Daniel Parsons were living at that time in Joliet, Montana with their two boys, Lovell and Harold, ages nine and four. W.D. was a blacksmith, who owned his own shop. Joliet is 200 miles east of Butte.

In 1919 Maud was back in Iowa, when Will's daughter Beulah, who was in nursing school in Chicago wrote on March 19th that she had spent Wednesday with Aunt Dora and Aunt Maud, then went to Des Moines to a show. In January 1920 Maud Parsons was living in Billings, Montana with her two boys, Lovell and Harold, 18 and 13. She was 40. W. D. had

[89] Lifton is the pumping station on the north end of Bear Lake four miles east of St. Charles, which had been constructed to control the water from the Bear River and provide power. It had been constructed between 1909 and 1918.

died a little over five years earlier at the age of 36 when they were living in Rockvale, about 30 miles away.

By then, Elda and Lin had moved to Burley, Idaho. Lin was the assistant manager of a paint shop, where Elda was the bookkeeper. His sister Elizabeth Valliant, a department store saleslady was living with them along with Elizabeth's eight year old daughter Mary. Two additional young women were boarding at their house. On October 29, 1920 Elda and Maud took a trip together to the spa at Lava Hot Springs, Idaho and unexpectedly ran into Will, who frequently traveled there for his rheumatism. This must have been quite a surprise, since he lived 60 miles away in one direction and the Feagans lived twice that far away in the opposite, not to mention that Maud's home was in Montana. He wrote of the encounter to Nora. *Maud is here and will go down with me in a day or so. She and Elda are both here....I knew nothing about it till they stepped in the door and they did not know I was here....Maud had been in Burley since July and will stay till next June and have the boys in school there.* Maud accompanied Will from Lava to Dingle for a visit, staying four days and then went on to Burley.

In 1922, Maud paid Will another visit in Dingle. On May 14th Will wrote to Nora: *Had a letter from Maud last night. She wants me to come to Burley and drive her Ford down to BL* (Bear Lake)*....She and Herald will visit a while before he moves to Seattle....Lovell is there now, had a job.* This is the last record of Maud's son Lovell that I have been able to find. He has disappeared from history. Will left for Burley on May 22nd. I assume he took the train in order to drive Maud's car back. She probably did not drive, and Harold was only 16. Maud and Harold were still in Dingle on May 28th, evidently touring around in the Ford—perhaps Maud was OK with Harold driving around the farm. When Nora arrived in Dingle on June 9th, back for the summer from teaching in Long Beach, Maud and Harold were still there.

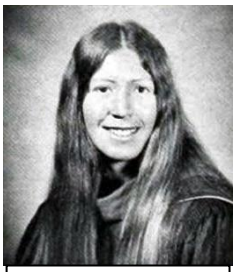
In February of 1923 Will reported staying in Burley with Elda and Lin. They were hoping to rent their home, lease out the store and travel for a year or so. In June Elda wrote to Will and Nora, *Lin had been working hard....Had almost 2 months' work ahead....Won't be able to get away on our trip until Sept or Oct. I have been looking for you and Nora up* (to Burley) *every day...before she goes back to Cal....Get in the car! Well I have a bunch of glass to cut.* And in July she wrote: *Wish you were here. We went camping over five hundred miles...in the Saw Tooth Mountains. Leonard didn't have much time to fish but he caught 43.*

The U.S. census of 1930 found the Feagans still in Burley. Lin was listed as a painter and wholesale decorator. He was 46 and she was 44 by then. Harold Parsons, Maud's son, was living with them, working as an accountant, possibly in Lin's store. I could not find Harold's mother in that census. But in 1932 Maud was living in Seattle, Washington. Harold was there, too, working as an accountant. He lived with his mother until he was married in 1942.

Harold Parsons

On April 2, 1934 Will got a letter in Long Beach from his son Mitchel in Dingle: *I got a wire from Elda last night that Leonard was dead* (at age 50). *He had got ptomaine poisoning.*[90] *I will drive up in the morning.* On May 6th, Elda sent Will a clipping of Leonard Feagans' death.

March 11, 1937 Elda was still living in Burley when she signed up for a voyage to Trieste, Italy at age 51.


Nellie Beitel

On April 5, 1940 the census found Maud Parsons, now 60, running some sort of guest house in Seattle. Her 34 year old son, Harold was living with her. He was a sales clerk in a retail drugstore, and had not yet married. On September 19, 1942 at the age of 36 he married Nellie Beitel before going off to war. She was a girl from Butte, whom he had probably known when he lived there. Two years earlier her husband of three years had died in a mine accident.

I couldn't find Elda in the 1940 census, but she was in Los Angeles, California in 1952, possibly living with Maud. Ida Maud Ream Parsons died in Los Angeles on April 6, 1953 at the age of 73.

Elda was living in Long Beach in 1955. She died in Los Angeles on July 31, 1974 at the age of 89. Elda and Lin had no children.

Dora and Jim Cain were living in Hartford, Warren County, Iowa when Nancy Ream died. Despite inheriting 20 acres in Benton Township from Mitch, they continued living in Hartford until Dora died May 20, 1937 and Jim a year later, both in their late 80's. All of their five kids lived to adulthood.

After hosting his mother Nancy's funeral at his home in October, 1909, John Paul Ream seemed to be in charge of dividing up her estate. It was he who corresponded with Jim about the money from the estate, although apparently Mitchell Centennial had personally made a visit to deliver it. John was the sixth-born child, but the oldest son at home. Actually, he was not exactly at home, but had moved to the town of Chariton, where he was employed as the County Treasurer. In 1905 the Iowa census that year listed him as merchant, affiliated with the United Brethren Church, not with the Adventists of his parents. The United Brethren is a church that was organized in Pennsylvania around 1800 with Mennonite and Methodist roots. It was especially prevalent in the Midwest including Ohio and Iowa. John was still the County Treasurer in 1912.

In 1920 John was living on Grand Street in Chariton with Anna and his three teenage sons, running a real estate office. By 1925 the two older boys had moved to Michigan and California to work, leaving them with 18 year old Cecil. John's daughter Eulala and her husband and three year old boy moved to California as well. As empty nesters John and Anna left Chariton and returned to farm in Benton Township sometime before 1930. Their

[90] Food poisoning.

youngest boy Cecil and his wife Ruby were farming, too, right next door, having moved to the farm as newlyweds six months earlier. They were located fairly near to Durward's family in the census, but not right next door as they seem to have been in 1910. This suggests to me that they located on the 20 acres that were awarded to them in Mitch's will, and not where they lived when they first got married.

Will and John Ream 1939

On June 9, 1939 John wrote that he was planning a trip west to California July 4th, probably to visit his married children. He hoped to see Will and Nora in Dingle. If not, he would visit them in Long Beach. They did meet in Dingle—Nora had come back for the summer. This was good timing for John. None of them knew it then, but Will had colon cancer and would begin having serious symptoms later that summer and died in November in Long Beach.

Anna died at the farm in 1953 and John lived to be 93 years old, buried in 1963 with the rest of the Iowa Reams in the Chariton cemetery.

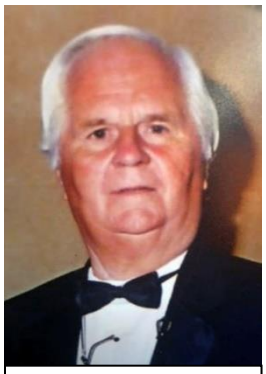
The youngest son, Durward, who had inherited the bulk of his father's farm had remained there when John moved back to Chariton. The 1915 Iowa census showed that the farm earned $200 dollars in 1914. That was the minimum amount that his father's will had directed him to pay annually to Elda. I hope he was reporting the money that remained after the payment. He valued the farm at $16,600 with $2,000 encumbrance. He was attending the United Brethren Church. By 1920 he and Daisy had three kids under 12. By the next census in 1930, their oldest had married and left. In 1940 when Durward was 57 the census found him farming in neighboring White Breast Township. That was a surprise to me. Evidently he had turned the family farm over to John. Durward died January 23, 1964 at the age of 81.

As far as I can tell, Edith was the only child who did not receive an inheritance from either of her parents. I suppose that is because she seemed financially stable and independent. She spent most of her adult life in Oklahoma, relatively distant from everyone else. But Will, who also lived far away from Iowa, did receive money from Nancy's estate. Both of them had seemed to flee the family farm as quickly as they could manage.

On January 27, 1920 George, 70 and Edith, 53 were living with their adopted daughter Georgie Wood, 16 years old in Earlsboro Township, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma. George was a retired farmer and Edith was teaching "public school." In 1930 they were living in Rock Creek Township, Oklahoma. He was 81 and "truck farming" and she was still teaching at 64. The 1940 census shows Edith widowed and living alone in Rock Creek. George had died in 1931 at the age of 81. Edith Louella Ream died in Shawnee, Oklahoma at age 85 in March 1951.

Miller Ream

Like John and Durward, Mitchell Centennial Ream was affiliated with the United Brethren Church. As of April 29, 1910 he and Mary were living in Chariton, where he worked as a retail farm implement salesman. They were still living in town in 1915. He was a traveling salesman according to the Iowa census that year, probably still selling to farmers. He had earned $900 the previous year. In 1920 Mitchell Centennial was living in Chariton on South 8th Street. He was 43 and Mary was 45. Their son Miller was 18 and still at home. They also had a 24 year old lodger who was a printer at the newspaper. Ten years later, Mitchell and Mary were still in the same house. He was then managing a garage, which was owned by his son Miller, 27 years old and unmarried. Mitchell was still there in the 1940 census but living alone—Emma had died March 19, 1940 at the age of 66 of heart disease. She had suffered with aortic stenosis for many years. Mitchell died in Des Moines at the age of 83 in 1959, but was buried in Chariton. Their only living son, Miller, had died before him in a car crash in Rock Springs, Wyoming on September 27, 1953, the very day that Miller Junior, Mitchell's only grandson attended his first day of class at Princeton, University. Miller's widowed wife, Helen Hass Ream moved to Princeton to be with her son, working as a librarian at the college library. Miller Junior got a degree in economics at Princeton, and after his military time, moved to San Francisco, where he became a major developer in San Mateo, founding WEBCOR, one of the biggest construction companies in the world. He was also well known for founding an upscale restaurant and for extensive philanthropy. Helen Hass Ream followed her son to San Francisco, where she re-married at age 62. Miller Jr. died in 2019.



Miller Ream, Jr.

Several of William Dewine Ream's children settled in the Bay area, as well. I wonder how well connected their families were to their prominent cousin.

Iowa Reams about 1935. Left to right: Elda, Mitchell C. and Emma, Annie, and John.

PART THREE: THE CROCKETTS

Crockett Pedigree -- Maine

Thomas Crockett 1605-1679-----**Ann Gunnison** 1617-1712

Joshua Crockett 1650-1719----**Sarah Trickey** 1661-1772

John Crockett 1695-1772----**Mary Knight** 1697-

Nathaniel Crockett 1719-1801----**Margaret Andrews** 1722- 1822

James 1740-1844
Jonathan 1741-1829
Lucy 1743-1832 — David Wooster 1732-1808
Thomas 1745-
Susannah Hooper 1744-1831 — **Isaac Crockett** 1746-1816
(and 7 more)

Mary 1770-1859
Isaac Crockett 1772-1806 — *Hannah Rendell* 1767-1846 — *Chauncey Holmes*
Solomon 1774-1830
John 1774-1830
Elizabeth Brackett 1777-1849 — **James Crockett** 1777-1851
Thomas 1779-1865
Ephraim 1779-1851
Deborah Crockett 1782-1812 — *Justus Ames* 1790-1861 — *Betsy Hudson* 1793-1882
William 1784-1820

James 1803-1863 — Lucy Ames Young
"Boy" 1805-
David Crockett *1806-*1876 — ***Lydia Young*** 1812-1888
Eliza 1808-1830
Thomas 1811-1886
Roxanna 1813-1895
Oliver 1816-1890
Catherine 1818-1872

Alvin David Crockett 1831-1902
Sabra Ann 1833-1900
Roxanna Catherine 1834-1900
Malinda Melissa 1836-1895
Lucinda Colehill 1838-1910
Edwin Madsen 1839-1914
Wilford Woodruff 1841-1907
Debora Athenia 1844-1849
Barbara Young 1845-1899
David William 1848-1873
Norman Victor 1850-1918
Emer 1852-1920
Enos Samuel 1855-1857
Lydia Mangum 1856-1919

Valentine Ames
1815-1865
(and 8 others)

Direct ancestral line in **bold**
Mormons in *italics*

VINALHAVEN

One of the earliest archeological sites in America shows that the Red Paint People of 5,000 to 3,800 B.C. lived on the island now known as North Haven. It is possible that the Vikings in their early explorations in the New World around 1000 A.D. touched on the same spot. European explorers landed there and on its island neighbor to the south now known as Vinalhaven in the 1500's. English Captain Martin Pring visited in 1603, coining the name Fox Islands for the many foxes he observed, which now are seldom if ever sighted there. Although English speaking people would settle on the nearby mainland less than two decades later, it was another 163 years before any would settle on the Fox Islands to live.

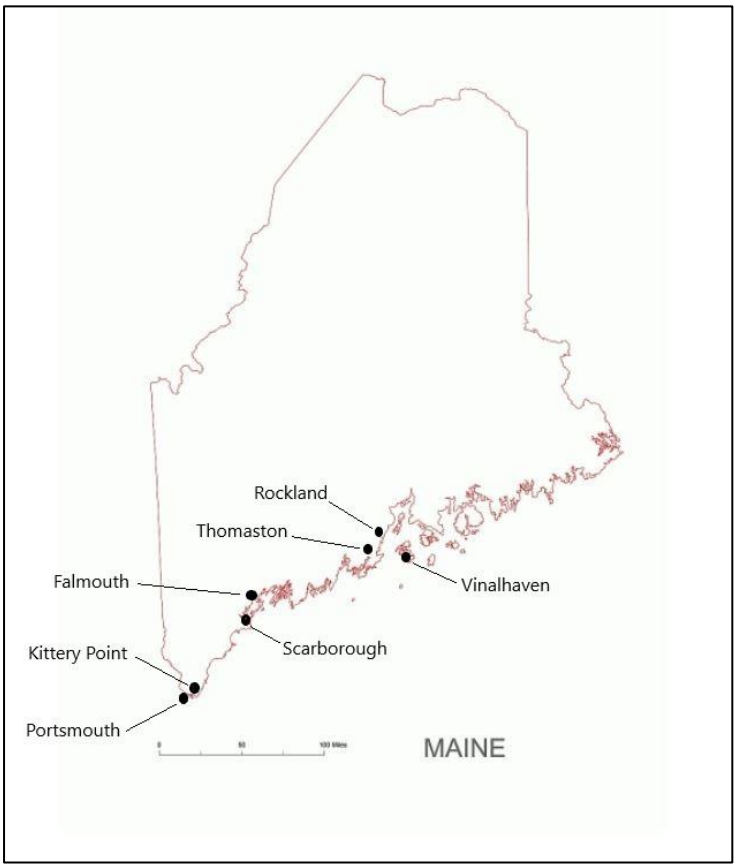
From the discovery of America by Columbus in 1492 there was little activity by English-speaking people anywhere in the Americas until the settling of Jamestown in 1607, the arrival of the pilgrims on the *Mayflower* in Plymouth in 1620, and the Puritans under John Winthrop in Massachusetts Bay in 1630. Although the Crockett family was in none of these groups, they were among the first Englishmen to arrive in the new world, when in 1633 Thomas Crockett settled at Kittery point, located on the Maine side of Portsmouth Bay, which now divides the southernmost tip of Maine from the coast of New Hampshire.

Thomas Crockett was born January 13, 1605 in Stoke Gabriel, Devon, England, a village on the River Dart just nine miles upstream from the important town of Dartmouth, where the river empties into the English Channel. Stoke Gabriel was known for crabbing and salmon fishing. Dartmouth is a deep water port from which the crusades of 1147 and 1190 A.D. were launched, and at various times it hosted the Royal Navy as well as privateers. The Pilgrim Fathers put in at Dartmouth in the Mayflower and the Speedwell on August 20, 1620 during their voyage to Plymouth Colony.

Some Crockett family histories state that Thomas came to America from Ireland on a ship called the *Pied Cow* as an indentured servant of Capt. John Mason, owner of the Piscataqua Plantation. I think that is at least partly wrong. While it is possible that Thomas Crockett sailed from Ireland, it seems more likely to me that he left from Dartmouth near his hometown, though I have no proof of this. It is true that he came as an indentured servant. After his time had been served, he received the gift of 147 acres of land in Kittery in 1641 on the east side of Spruce Creek, which has since been called Crockett's Neck, next to Crockett's Cove or Creek (depending upon the tide). In 1648 he began managing the first public ferry in Maine. In 1653 he was granted another 40 acres "next to the seaside."[91] He

[91] *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633* [first series], 3 volumes (NEHGS, 1995).

served as the town constable in 1657 and died in 1679. He married Ann Gunnison in Kittery in 1640 and they had twelve children. From him springs a large Crockett family which colonized Virginia and extended up the coast of Maine, where Crockett remains a prominent name to this day.[92]



Our American Crockett line comes through Thomas' son Joshua, who was born in Kittery in 1650 and married Sarah Trickey in 1682. Sarah was the daughter of a shipwright named Thomas Trickey, who had arrived from England in 1640. Joshua and Sarah's youngest son, John Crockett, was born in Kittery in 1695 and married Mary Knight in 1718 just across the Piscataqua River into New Hampshire, where they lived in Portsmouth. Their first son Nathaniel was born on March 31, 1719. The next year John and Mary Crockett moved with Nathaniel about 60 miles north up the coast of Maine to Scarborough. John was said to have served with Nathan Knight in the Indian War from September 1723 to May 1724.[93] Nathaniel married Margaret Andrews in Scarborough in 1740. The Reverend Thomas Smith of Falmouth wrote in his journal, that *N. Crockett on June 15, 1746 saw and fired on an Indian while on his way to church, near the causeway by Chapman.* The Nathaniel Crockett family lived in that general area for about 20 years, where they had eight children. Two of his grandchildren

[92]The famous frontiersman, Davy Crockett was not a part of this family. In fact it is likely that even the ancestors of these two Crockett families were not related. According to Wikipedia, Davy Crockett's ancestors immigrated to New York from Ireland around 1700. Our line can be traced in England back to at least 1525, but Davy Crockett's ancestor changed his name from de Crocketagne to Crockett after immigrating to Ireland from France around 1660 and never lived in England. However, he was a third cousin twice removed to Lydia Young Crockett, on his *mother's* side.

[93] This is known as Father Rale's War, in which the Wabanaki Confederacy attacked the English settlements on the Maine Coast in retaliation for an attack from the English the year before. There were fourteen Indian raids on the New England settlements that year. Thirty settlers were killed or taken captive. Father Rale was a French Jesuit missionary, whom the colonists killed during the war.

are of special interest to our story: his son Nathaniel's children Lucy and Isaac, who was the grandfather of Nora Crockett's grandfather, David Crockett.

The area we now know as Maine, then a part of the Massachusetts colony, was controlled by the Indians, who through the influence of the French trappers at war with Britain, kept most English settlers out of the territory until after the French and Indian War. The north island, now called North Haven, was settled in 1762 before the war ended by David Wooster, who harvested tall pines for the use by the British as replacement masts for their ships. His wife was Lucy Crockett, first daughter of Nathaniel and Margaret. So, a Crockett was one of the two original English speaking settlers on the Fox Islands. When the war was over in 1763, other settlers came. Thaddeus Carver arrived from Marshfield, Massachusetts. The southern Fox Island is said to have first been inhabited by an Englishman in 1765, when Francis Cogswell of Ipswich, Massachusetts set up a saw mill powered by the tides of Carver's mill stream where the town of Vinalhaven is now located.

Isaac Crockett married Susannah Hooper in Falmouth, near Scarborough, in 1769, but apparently moved immediately to the North Island, where their first child, Mary Crockett was born in 1770. I assume that Isaac's older sister Lucy had influenced him to move there. They remained permanently and had all nine of their children on the north island including our ancestor James Crockett, Isaac and Susannah's fifth son, who was born April 17, 1777.

At his age, Isaac Crockett would have been eligible to serve in Washington's army, but it appears that he was able to sit out the war on the island. Perhaps that was one reason for him to settle there. Maybe he was a Tory. Most of the earlier settlers went back to the mainland during the Revolutionary War for fear of the British, who ruled the seas. However David and Lucy Wooster stayed, not needing to fear the British, who needed their masts to repair their ships. I assume that Isaac settled near them on the North Island, which continued at least into the late 19th century to have some Crockett families, although most of them seem to have been living on the South Island by then.

After the Revolutionary War the population of the Fox Islands grew rapidly. Many of the new settlers were Revolutionary War veterans who had received land grants on the islands as payment for their military service. In 1785 when Maine had become a separate state, seventy-five of the settlers petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts to relinquish any claims to the island. The attorney representing the islanders at the court was a Bostonian, John Vinal, Esq., who later moved to the islands, which were named Vinalhaven after him. On the list settlers in that suit were the names of several families who later married into the Crockett line including Arey, Dyer, Leadbetter, Norton, and Vinal.

Isaac's father Nathaniel Crockett evidently did not follow his children to Vinalhaven, but he came close. He and Margaret moved to Cumberland, near Rockland from where the current ferry runs to Vinalhaven and whose bay now has a Crockett Point. Interestingly, Isaac's

grandfather, John Crockett, did move to the islands, where he died in North Haven in 1772. He had evidently come to live with his granddaughter, Lucy Crockett Wooster after his wife Mary died in Kittery.

By 1800 the population of the two islands together was 860. The early occupations were fishing, farming logging, boat building, and for women, the knitting of fish nets and later of thousands of horse nets sold to protect horses from flies.

Isaac's son James moved from the north to the south island, probably in 1802 after he married Elizabeth Brackett, a 25-year-old from Barnstable, Massachusetts. A year later James and Elizabeth had a son, whom they named James after his father. In 1805 a second son was born, who survived long enough to be counted in the U.S. census of 1810 as one of their three male children under 10 years of age. His name and death date are not known. Then on December 30, 1806, my ancestor David Crockett was born.

Just two months and two days later, about 300 miles away in Farmington, Connecticut, was born a baby who would grow up to change David Crockett's life and Vinalhaven's history. His name was Wilford Woodruff.

On August 7, 1820 the U.S. census was taken again in Vinalhaven. It contained no names except that of the father of each family, but James and Elizabeth Crockett by then had seven children. These were Oliver, Thomas, David, James, Catherine, Roxanna, and Eliza. There were three adults living in the household—one man and two women. The second woman was probably not Elizabeth's mother, who was still living in Concord, Massachusetts. James' parents were both living in the north island. I suspect the other woman could have been an aunt of James, one of his father Isaac's four younger sisters.

By 1826 the quality of Vinalhaven's granite was discovered and for the next 100 years the island was one of Maine's largest quarrying centers. The sea was also of great importance to Vinalhaven's economy as the island has always been a major supplier of seafood to Portland, Boston, and New York, first as salted and dried fish, then canned lobster, scallops, shrimp, and sea urchins.

On January 26, 1826 David Crockett's older brother James married 16 year old Lucy Ames Young. James was 22. On March 19, 1829, his sister Eliza Crockett, age 20, married Perez Babbidge in Vinalhaven.

In 1830 Maine, including the Fox Islands, was granted statehood.

By the 1830 census, only four children were still living with James and Elizabeth Crockett: Oliver, age 14, Thomas, age 19, and the two younger girls, Catherine 12, and Roxanna 17. David was not living at home. On September 24, 1830 David's sister Eliza Crockett Babbidge died at the age of 21, I suspect in childbirth. Then on December 20, 1830 David

Crockett married 18 year old Lydia Young, the younger sister of Lucy Ames Young, wife of his brother James. Lydia was six years younger than David. In addition to her sister Lucy, she had an older sister named Mary at home, two younger brothers named Samuel and James, and younger sisters named Deborah, Sabra, and Barbara after whom Lydia would later name her own children.

At least one Crockett family story claims that David had met Lydia when came to the islands from Massachusetts to visit relatives. That is not correct. She was born in Vinalhaven, and so were her parents. Her mother, Lydia Ames, was born on the North Island. Her father, Samuel Young, was born on the South Island. However, all four of Lydia's grandparents were from the Barnstable area of Massachusetts and moved to Vinalhaven during its rapid growth period in the 1780s.

Phoebe Carter and Wilford Woodruff

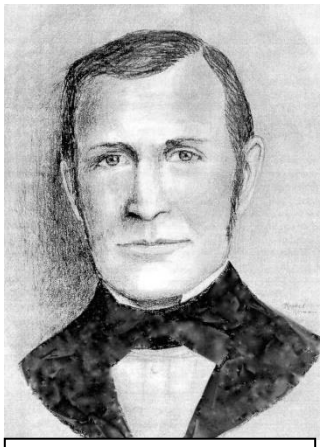
Almost exactly two years after the marriage of David and Lydia, Wilford Woodruff joined the Mormon Church in Connecticut along with his older brother Azmon Woodruff on December 31, 1833, and soon moved to Clay County, Missouri. In late 1834 Wilford received a call to serve a mission in the southern states, where according to his journal he traveled 9,805 miles, held 323 meetings, organized four branches, and baptized 70 people while eluding six different mobs. He returned to Kirtland in 1836 and discovered there a disappointing, widespread apostasy. Remaining true to the prophet, he was called to the First Quorum of the Seventy and met Phoebe Carter in Kirtland on January 28, 1837. Three months later they were married, and three months after that he was called on a mission to the "isles of the sea." He reported, *The Spirit of God said to me, "You choose a partner and go straight to Fox Islands." Well, I knew no more what was on Fox Islands than what was on Kolob. But the Lord told me to go, and I went."* He chose Jonathan H. Hale as his companion. Perhaps not coincidentally, Phoebe's parents lived in Scarborough, Maine, the town of Isaac Crockett's birth, and a jumping off point to the Fox Islands. Traveling first on a tour of Canada and New York to visit fellow missionaries, Wilford joined Phoebe, who had come independently to Scarborough to visit Phoebe's parents. Then he and Elder Hale traveled to Connecticut to visit his own parents and baptized three of his relatives. Wilford

Woodruff and his companion returned to Maine in August of 1837. There they spent ten days at Phoebe Carter's home, visiting her parents and her siblings in nearby towns.

On August 19th the missionaries were able to hitch a night ride on a sloop from Owls Head, which took them ten miles across Penobscot Bay to the North Fox Island, where they arrived at 2 a.m. Sunday morning and walked around until daylight. After receiving a friendly breakfast from a farmer's wife, they found their way to the Baptist church, which was already in session. They were taken by the deacon to the stand, where the "priest" introduced them and invited them to return at five p.m. to preach. Between meetings the minister entertained them at his home and accepted a Book of Mormon, which they lent him for a week. After the missionaries' sermon that evening they set up appointments at several school houses to teach on the four following evenings. Woodruff wrote to the church leaders in Kirtland that on the following Sunday of August 27th, not a single Baptist had showed up at their regular meetinghouse. Elder Hale recorded in his journal that night ...*tarried with Justus Eames.* On August 31st the missionaries met with the neighbors of the Ames family at their house. The pair staged nineteen meetings in their first two weeks on the island. In his journal Wilford Woodruff recorded on Sunday, September 3, 1837 that the missionaries *opened a door for baptism, and a respectable sea captain and his wife offered themselves as candidates....* They were baptized in the nearby sea. Elder Hale noted that he had done the baptizing. This couple was Justus Ames (or Eames) and his second wife Betsy Hudson. Justus had been previously married to David Crockett's aunt, Deborah Crockett, a sister of Isaac, who had died in 1812, probably in childbirth. So Justus was David's uncle by marriage. Justus Ames was also Lydia's uncle, her mother's youngest brother.

The next day the missionaries visited the South Island, where *people came out by the hundreds to five meetings, filling the school houses to overflowing.* When they returned to the North Island to baptize more new members, they discovered that the Methodist minister from the South Island, named Mr. Douglass, had followed them and forged an unholy alliance with his former enemy, Mr. Newton, the Baptist minister of the North Island *like Herod and Pilate.* The two ministers called a meeting, which the missionaries also attended, and *commenced warm hostilities against the Book of Mormon and our principles....* Wilford took notes of their charges against the religion, which he answered to a large congregation in his own meeting shortly afterwards. On September 12th Hale wrote, *Back to Eames', baptized five more including Ebenezer Eames,* probably Justus' brother *and Melana Eames,* Justus' Daughter aged 21.

Hale noted on September 18, 1837 ...*tarried with James Crockett, a Universalist on South Island.* This could have been my ancestor, David's father, but was more likely his older brother, who ran the ferry across to North Island. On October 2nd Valentine Eames (Justus' 22 year old son) took Hale to mainland in sailboat. Hale went to Kirtland, arriving October 28 via Albany and Buffalo on a canal boat. This mission was over for him.



Jonathan H. Hale

Despite the understandable opposition of the two protestant ministers, Wilford Woodruff won many converts on the island during his one year ministry. After Brother Hale left him, Wilford's pregnant bride Phoebe made her way over to the islands from her father's home in Scarborough, and the two of them spent the first half of the year 1838 enlarging the little branch of converts. Prominently mentioned during that time in Brother Woodruff's journal was Isaac Crockett, probably David Crockett's 45 year old cousin.[94] Isaac took Wilford Woodruff to Crockett's Cove on the west side of the South Island and helped to clear the ice for baptisms there including his own. In his journal, Wilford wrote, *on the 20th of December I spent an hour with Mr. Isaac Crockett, in clearing away large blocks of ice from the water in a cove, in order to baptize him, which I did when the tide came in. I also baptized two more in the same place, on the 26th, and still two others on the 27th.* David's older brother James Crockett, is mentioned in Wilford Woodruff's diary as the man who ferried the missionaries across the *Thorough*, the 1/4 mile wide channel between the north and south islands.[95]

North Haven and Vinalhaven 1859

Phoebe Woodruff continued to assist her husband, but he had other male missionaries to assist him. In February 1838 a North Islander named Malatiah Luce was baptized by Elder Joseph Ball. Ball was the presiding elder of the mission, working out of Boston

[94] Isaac had lived on nearby Deer Island after he married Hannah Allen in 1816, but come back to Vinalhaven around 1832 with his wife and seven children ages 2-15. He was still in Vinalhaven in September, 1840, when his last child was born. He never migrated to Zion and died in Maine in 1861.

[95] When Linda and I visited Vinalhaven in 2001, this job was done by Brown's Boat Yard on the north island. For us to cross it was necessary to call for a skiff from a lonely pay phone placed at a gravel parking area for that purpose. Nothing much larger than a person could cross in that manner. Cars would have needed to be ferried from the south island first to the mainland, and then back to the north island, a thing which was rarely, if ever, done.

and had come to visit Wilford only to find that he had just left the island (and Phoebe) on February 22nd to check out Bangor, Maine and found immediate success while he waited for Wilford to return. Wilford was proselyting in Bangor, Maine on March 1, 1838 when Phoebe wrote to him from the Luces' home on North Island. She mentioned that Elder Ball was with her and gave Wilford the news that *Joseph and Sidney have fled to Missouri (in January) and the word is for all to follow them to avoid the destruction falling on K* (Kirtland)*. The printing office was sold by dissenters to pay Joseph and Sidney's debts....Bro. Ball's mother is requesting his return. He will go in 8-10 days, but first wants to baptize Ephraim Luce and Lucy Fry. Br. Ames is suing you for damage to his character.* Was this Justus? *Br. Crockett has come over to this district and says he is more calm than he was. I hope he will not proceed with his suit for it will only cause trouble.* She wrote of another missionary, Milton Holmes. He had given up going to Kirtland that spring.

By March 6th Wilford Woodruff was back on the North Island. He wrote that he took Brother Sterrett, one of his converts, and their wives out to dig clams. While they were occupied, the tide came in and stranded them several hundred feet from the shore and they were forced to carry the women back through the waves. A week later he received a letter from Zion (Far West, Missouri) requesting that the island saints sell their property and gather to Zion. Three missionaries from the mainland, Elders Milton Holmes, James Townsend, and Abner Rogers, came to North Fox Island to hold a member conference, probably to deliver the news of gathering.

Phoebe left the islands on April 17th to go back to her parents' house in Scarborough and Wilford followed eleven days later. When he returned to the island on August 7th, Justus Ames delivered a letter to him that had been written three weeks earlier by Thomas B. Marsh in Missouri. The letter reported on the great apostasy in Kirtland that required the dismissal of many leaders including some of the Quorum of the Twelve. Wilford was called to be an apostle along with John Page, John Taylor, and Willard Richards. He was instructed to proceed immediately to Missouri along with any converts from the islands who could go.

On August 10th he wrote: *Walked to Brother Crockett's....James Crockett would not take us back across the thorofare....Justus Ames would not go to Zion. His children prevented it.* It is not surprising that the Ames family did not go at that time, and I do not believe this is because his children opposed Mormonism. His son Valentine married Sabra Coombs on August 12 and his daughter Melana married Eben Dyer on October 21, 1838.

Woodruff left the island for good on August 13th. On September 5, 1838 he wrote, *At Carters', packed 300 lbs. of goods into a box 3'2" by 2'5" by 2' 8" and 70 lbs. in a barrel. There was great excitement on election.* He voted in the Maine elections as a democrat.

It is uncertain how many had actually been baptized by then, but in his journal, Brother Woodruff estimated just fewer than 100. In still existing Vinalhaven church records, the Baptist rolls show a drop in membership of about 80 during that decade, 40 of whom were "excluded." There was undoubtedly also a large number of the Methodists who were baptized. After annoying delays and much trouble, 43 saints from the island and about 10 more from the mainland met Elder Woodruff at Father Carter's in Scarborough on October 3, 1838 for a winter trek that presaged the later crossing of the plains by the Mormon pioneers. There were deaths and severe hardship. Just a fraction of the group finally arrived in Rochester, Illinois, unable to go further until spring. The Illinois River had become impassible due to ice conditions and it was no longer safe to go on to Far West. Coincidentally, the main group of Mormons was kicked out of Missouri the same winter, so the Fox Islands party eventually joined the saints that spring in Nauvoo. Most of the pioneers in that company were listed in Wilford's journal, but no Crocketts were mentioned.

However, Justus Ames and his family appear in the Illinois census of 1840, living in Knox County Illinois, just east of Warren County, where he lived the rest of his life in Coldbrook, about 60 miles northeast of Nauvoo. Living with him and Betsy were seven children--Frederick, Christopher, Ezra, Rufus, Elizabeth Ann, and John Wesley ages 22, 21, 19, 17, 10, and 8. Their married children, Valentine and Melana, were still living in Vinalhaven at that time. I do not know how or when the Ames family moved, having passed on the opportunity to migrate with the Woodruff group. Despite Phoebe's remark about a lawsuit, apparently the Ames family still considered themselves Mormons. His wife was identified later in records of the RLDS church.

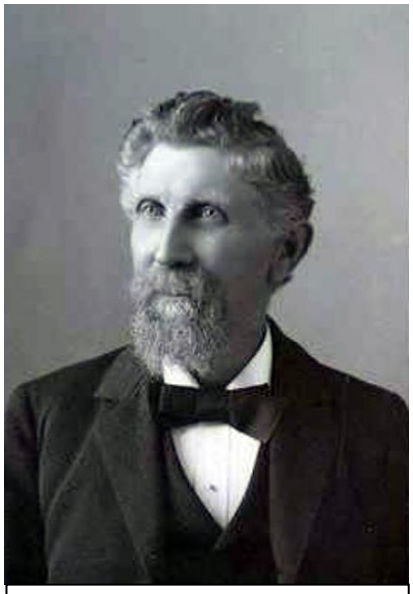
By this time David and Lydia Crockett had six children: Alvin, Sabra Ann, Roxanna, Malinda, Lucinda, and Edwin, ages nine through one. I am quite certain that Lydia and David Crockett were not baptized by Wilford Woodruff or Jonathan Hale. They were not mentioned in either of the journals of those first missionaries, and the most likely dates for their baptism are during Elder Woodruff's famous later mission in England. There is wide variance among the various Crockett histories on this topic. One states that Lydia Young Crockett was baptized in December 1839, followed in March of 1840 by her husband David, and that two weeks later he baptized their son Alvin at the age of eight. In my opinion it is unlikely that David baptized his own son Alvin—baptizing was at that time considered the role of the missionary, and David did not likely yet even hold the priesthood.

Most likely it was the next set of missionaries that converted David and Lydia. Although not nearly so well known, the second pair actually baptized more people in the Fox Islands than the first. An article in the Deseret News announcing David's death in 1876 stated:

David Crockett was baptized in his native state in March, 1839 by Elder William Hyde. If Elder Hyde baptized David in the month of March, it must have been in March, 1841, as I will explain.

William Hyde

As a little boy, William Hyde (no relation that I could find to Orson Hyde) grew up in Liberty, New York as a neighbor to "Dr." Warren A. Cowdery, brother of Oliver, and joined the church at the age of 15. After being ordained a Seventy in Nauvoo on April 7, 1840 he set out with another missionary named John Herrett for the Fox Islands, visiting Kirtland to preach in the Temple on the way. They arrived on the North Island July 26, 1840. By August 20th, they had baptized 24 people, when Elder Hyde contracted typhus and nearly died. Elder Herrett attended to his 22 year old companion faithfully for two weeks, and then he fell ill himself. William Hyde recovered, but Herrett died on October 19th. Hyde finished out his mission on his own and returned to Nauvoo by rail and steamboat on April 30, 1841, having baptized 107 people,[96] including fourteen in the month of March, which probably included both David and Alvin Crockett. I assume that he had baptized Lydia the previous December.



Missionary Alfred Dixon

Another pair of missionaries, Alfred Dixon from Canada and an Elder Pendleton, who had also been called as missionaries to the eastern states in the spring of 1840, eventually proselyted in Vinalhaven for six months from July 12, 1841 to through December 26.

The first child born to David and Lydia Crockett after their baptism was named Wilford Woodruff Crockett. One of the family accounts states that Wilford Woodruff Crockett was named and blessed by the great man himself. If that is true, it raises several important questions.

To begin with, most family histories give Wilford Woodruff Crockett's birth date as July 9, 1841, probably derived from his cemetery records. This would fall between the second and third set of missionaries, and just after the end of Wilford Woodruff's mission to England. Wilford Woodruff

[96] William Hyde lived to go on at least six more missions including Australia in 1853. He was an original colonizer of Cache County in 1860 and served as the first bishop of the Hyde Park ward.

was indeed in Maine that summer, reuniting with his wife Phoebe and his son Wilford Jr. at the home of her parents in Scarborough. According to his journal, the apostle was in and around Scarborough from June 1 through July 10th before departing to visit his father in Connecticut. There is no mention in his diary of any visit to Vinalhaven. Assuming that little W.W. Crockett's birthday was correctly reported, the blessing would have had to be given on the very day he was born, and the family would have needed to take him to Scarborough to get it done. Another possibility is that this happened later, after the Crocketts and Wilford Woodruff were together in Nauvoo.

I decided to look more closely at Wilford Woodruff Crockett's birth year. He was reported in the Utah 1850 census as 10 years old and born in Illinois. Since the official date of the census was June 1, that would support the date, but not the place of birth. Interestingly, the 1870 census also gives his birthplace as Illinois, but his birth year as 1843. Four other censuses give birth years of 1840, 1842, and 1839. According to his LDS church membership record, he was born July 9, 1842 in Maine. It appears that this boy's birth date will never be determined with certainty. But it bears on the important question of when the Crockett family left the islands for Zion.

The family histories vary on this date as well. As a group they tend to suggest that the family left in the fall of 1841 and arrived in Nauvoo by way of Kirtland around November. The story is told that the family was dreadfully sick for that entire winter, except for Alvin, who at the age of 11 had to take care of the family himself.

If Wilford Woodruff Crockett was born in Maine on July 9, 1842 as his membership record suggests, it would appear that the family left a full year later. There is some indirect evidence in the Vinalhaven church membership numbers that might support that idea. According to conference reports reported in the Nauvoo newspaper, the Times and Seasons, the LDS church membership on the Fox Islands increased from 92 in September to 109 at the end of the year 1841. Then there was a drop by April, 1842 of 25 members suggesting out migration and another drop of 28 from April, 1842 to 1843.

I believe that the Vinalhaven branch continued to lose members to migration and to apostasy, although my other Vinalhaven ancestors, the Henry McMullin family, did not migrate to Utah until the summer of 1855.[97]

The history of the Vinalhaven assumes that Mormonism disappeared with the missionaries. Wilford Woodruff kept in contact with the saints in Vinalhaven after the Crocketts left and

[97] Mary Pierce was baptized March 10, 1841 almost certainly by William Hyde. Henry McMullin was baptized November 15, 1841 by Alfred Dixon and Pendleton. He and Mary Pierce were married April 10, 1842. Henry's half-brother Willard Glover McMullin was baptized by Hyde a little before Mary on March 3, 1841, also by Elder Hyde.

was actually on his way to the islands for a visit, which had to be aborted when he received word in Boston of the martyrdom of the prophet in 1844. I know that the Mormons were still in Vinalhaven at least until 1855, because that is the year in which my other Fox Island ancestors, the Henry McMullin family, finally migrated to Utah.

THE LONG JOURNEY TO ZION

Surprisingly, there is very little reliable information about the years between Maine and the Crocketts' eventual home in Payson. Even the undocumented stories are sketchy and in many cases contradictory. We do not know exactly when they left, how they traveled, or when they joined the Mormons in Hancock County. They left Nauvoo with the main body of saint in the winter of 1846, but did not reach Utah until 1849. They did not move to Payson until 1851. In this chapter I will attempt to correct the obvious errors in the family story, fill in as many blanks as possible, and give you my theories where the evidence simply cannot be found.

Let's begin with how they traveled. Legend is that they packed up their belongings and drove to Nauvoo in a covered wagon, first stopping briefly in Kirtland. Remembering that they started their journey from an island, where travel by boat was the norm, I questioned that. I knew of three trips from Vinalhaven to Nauvoo that had been documented by others, so I turned to their journals.

The first was Wilford Woodruff's arduous trip back from his mission to the Fox Islands in October, 1838. He purchased wagons and teams on the mainland and traveled overland with several convert families. The trip was brutal, and he arrived in Illinois with only one other family in December, wintering in Rochester, and not joining the saints until spring, as they were also just arriving from Missouri.

Between 1838 and 1840 there was a huge boom in canal travel in the eastern United States with 3,000 miles in canals linking most major lakes and rivers. When Wilford Woodruff returned to Nauvoo from his famous mission to England in 1841 he visited his family across the bay from Vinalhaven and then sailed from Portland, Maine to Boston, visited his own family in Connecticut, and then took the steamboat from New York City to Albany and the Erie Canal to Buffalo. From there he traveled by steamboat over Lake Erie, Lake Superior, and Lake Michigan to Chicago, where he hired a man with a wagon to carry his family and 800 lbs. of baggage to Nauvoo for $21. This trip took just over a month, brief and easy in comparison with his overland five month trip three years earlier.

William Hyde, the missionary who baptized the Crocketts, also returned to Nauvoo that year via the water transportation system augmented by a few short train segments, describing it in delighted detail. His trip took only about three weeks. It seems likely to me that the Crocketts also traveled by water.

The composite of the family stories of the exodus suggests that the Crocketts first went to Kirtland in the fall of 1841, found that most of the Mormons had left, and made their way from there to Nauvoo, where they stayed two years and left in 1846. That leaves two or three years unaccounted for. As mentioned in the previous chapter, I think they probably

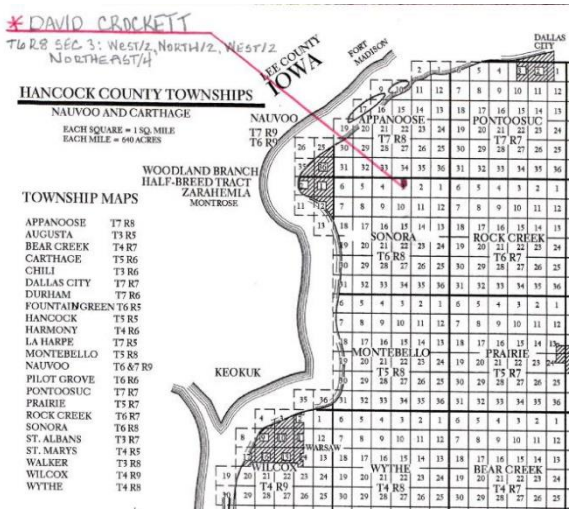
left in 1842, which would account for one year, and I see no reason why they would not have stopped in Kirtland as alleged, although they could not have expected to find many church members there. Joseph Smith had already moved to the new Zion in Missouri in January 1841 and most of the faithful Mormons followed a few months later. But Kirtland was on both the overland and the water route, and the temple would have been an attraction. Also, it is possible that the Crocketts had family members in Kirtland to visit. The Justus Ames family had moved to Illinois by then, but at some point after August 1841 their oldest boy, Valentine Ames moved to Kirtland, since he appears there in the 1850 census with his wife and two children. Valentine was a first cousin to both David and Lydia Crockett.

Reuben and Mary Ann McBride

It is possible that the Crocketts stayed for a significant time in Kirtland, although I was not able to find any mention of them in records of that town. But they did not live in the city of Nauvoo in 1842. They do not appear in the Nauvoo census of 1842 nor in the Nauvoo, Illinois 1842 tax index. They did not come to live there until May 13, 1845. That is the date in which they appear in Willard Richards' Daily Log of Persons moving to Nauvoo.[98] They were recorded on the same day as about 35 other people, and so they may have arrived with a group. I could only identify the place of origin of some of the families that arrived that day, but one of them was the Reuben McBride family, who were arriving from Kirtland. Reuben had stayed on in Kirtland after the Mormons left for Far West, having been vested with Joseph Smith's power of attorney, to take care of his properties and the Kirtland Temple. Another family to arrive the same day as Crocketts was headed by Thomas Levi Whittle, moving to Nauvoo from the Mormon settlement at Quincy, Illinois. Perhaps that is where the Crocketts had come from.

[98] I found this little-known record on microfilm along with the Nauvoo Church Census of February 1842. Salt Lake City Family History Library microfilm number 581,219.

The same day that they registered as newcomers to Nauvoo they bought a farm lot in Sonora Township from William Law and his wife Jane for $140. It was about four miles due east of the city and the farm of the apostle Charles C. Rich bordered them on the west. One family biography states that Joseph Smith's farm had been a mile further east of them, evidently in Rock Creek Township.



On May 24, the capstone of the Nauvoo Temple was laid.

If they had not been living in Kirtland before coming to Nauvoo, where had they been? One possibility is that they had gone to Coldbrook, Warren County, Illinois to stay with their uncle Justus and Betsy Ames. But that was not a predominantly Mormon town, and it was 66 miles from Nauvoo. Or they may have moved to one of the many Mormon towns surrounding Nauvoo in Illinois or across the Mississippi River in Iowa. In 1842 there were 3,413 living in Nauvoo, but it is estimated that 8-10,000 Mormons were living within a 40 mile radius of the city. Besides Nauvoo there were stakes in Zarahemla (later Montrose, Iowa) and in Ramus (a few miles east of Nauvoo and many branches in other towns.[99]

During this period the family had another child, Debora Athenia Crockett. Her birth is given on her LDS membership record as 12 May 1844 in Nauvoo, but if that is accurate, why was the family listed as newcomers a year later? Perhaps they lived close enough to Nauvoo the visit frequently, perhaps at conferences, or perhaps she was just born in the Nauvoo *area*. On July 16, 1844 everyone in the Crockett family over the age of eight was re-baptized in Nauvoo by William Burgess. This was just 19 days after the Prophet Joseph Smith's martyrdom, when the saints were gathering in mourning. On June 5, 1845 their sixth daughter, Barbara Young Crockett was born in Nauvoo.

So they only lived a short time in Nauvoo, for the mass exodus of the Mormons for Deseret began February 4, 1846. It is not known whether the Crocketts were in the vanguard group that left in February, the spring exodus, or the fall exodus of Mormons that held on until September, 1846. I suspect that they were not in the initial group. The reason that I say that is that Hancock County property records show that David sold his farm property in Sonora Township to Joseph Jared for $135 on May 26, 1846, but he could have returned in order to make the sale. I have read that many Mormons had to sell their properties at fire

[99] However, I searched the early LDS membership records in both Zarahemla and Ramus without finding any Crocketts.

sale prices during the exodus, but the Crocketts seem to have only lost $5 from their original price.

They did not relocate very far away. They settled in a place called Dover in Davis County Iowa about 60 miles west from Nauvoo right on the Mormon Trail. The Crocketts were among the 2-3,000 saints of the Nauvoo Mormons, who lagged behind in southeastern Iowa and northern Missouri, either supporting the many pioneers traveling through or working to make enough income to provision themselves for the crossing of the western plains. There they lived for about three years as tenant farmers. It is possible that they were working for B. F. Wilson, the first owner of the farmland that became Dover.

Dover does not appear on the map of Iowa anymore.[100] It is listed on a website for Iowa ghost towns, but no trace of it remains now. The site is about 1.5 miles south of the current town of Troy, Iowa in Davis County, nestled in a curve of the Fox River, which runs southeast into the Mississippi near Warsaw. Davis County had been created in 1843 and Dover was its first town. Dover was initially named Harpersville, when the Mormon fugitives from Missouri created the "Old Mormon Trail" in 1838 as they fled eastward to Nauvoo. It was later named Stringtown, probably because it consisted of farms strung along the pioneer route.

The town of Dover was first platted in 1848, a year after the Crocketts' arrival there but before they left for Utah. The town had a mill, a store, a hotel, and of course a few houses. It had a post office called Fox from 1842-1853, and in 1851 when it had changed its name to Stringtown it had a population of 32. The town competed with Troy, which was also established in 1848, and when Troy won the location for the school center, Stringtown vanished.[101]

While the Crocketts were in Dover, thousands of Mormon Pioneers passed by them on the way to Winter Quarters, later to Council Bluffs, and finally on to Utah. Among these was an elderly couple, who were relatives of David Crockett. They had joined the church in 1843, probably after David and Lydia had left the Fox Islands and were with the general exodus from Nauvoo. His Aunt Hannah Rendell Crockett, widow of his father's brother Isaac, died in Winter Quarters at the age of 79 on October 18, 1846, never quite making it all the way to Zion. Her second husband, Chauncey Holmes of Deer Island, Maine, also died there the following year.

After nearly three years of tenant farming, the family was probably just deciding to pull up stakes in Dover and move on to Utah, when on March 13, 1848 David William Crockett was

[100] There is another town named Dover that does appear on the modern map, but it is 210 miles to the north.
[101] Pioneer History of Davis County, Iowa. Federated Women's Clubs, Davis County. *Bloomfield Democrat* 1924-1927. P.75.

born. In April they packed up and headed for the Missouri River. They probably had no way of knowing that David's mother, Elizabeth Brackett died on May 13, 1849 in Vinalhaven. Sometime that year, their five year old daughter Deborah Athenia, the first of the two girls born in Nauvoo died. I suspect that happened during the winter, for she was not recorded among the pioneers crossing the plains.

In Council Bluffs the family signed up with the Allen Taylor Company, bound for Salt Lake City with nine kids. David was 42 and Lydia was 36. Alvin was 17. There were four pubertal girls between the ages 11 and 16: Lucinda, Malinda, Roxanna, and Sabra. Edwin was nine, Wilford Woodruff Crockett was seven, Barbara was four and little David William was just three months old when they set out.

None of them kept a journal, so I will rely on the writings of their companions. Their captain of 10 was David Moore, who always traveled with the Crockett family. He wrote on June 27, 1849, *I crossed the Missouri River with Captain Allen Taylor and R.N. Allred, selected a camp ground and returned to camp about 6 o'clock P.M.*[102] *Tied our cattle to our wagons and to some trees for the night.* The next day they ferried over the wagons and swam the cattle and camped about a half mile from Winter Quarters, waiting until the 30th for the entire company to get over the river.

On July 2nd Moore noted that Captain Allen Taylor had ordered the camp to move another half mile and form a "corral" to receive instructions from the apostle Pres. George A. Smith and others. Captains of 10, of fifty, and captains of 10 and a camp presidency were chosen. Actually, Reddick Allred's 50 had 246 people and Enoch Reese's had 199. (A captain of 50 was over 50 wagons, not 50 people). This idea of a "corral" was a new innovation. Each night the wagons of the entire company would circle with the tailgate to the center, creating an enclosed area to contain all of the livestock in an effort to prevent rustling by the Indians. It turned out to be a disaster for the Allen Taylor group. James P. Terry wrote: *In 1849 a different mode was adopted in camping. The corral was formed with the wagon tongues outside leaving a small opening at each end of the corral and at dark we put our horses and cattle all in this enclosure. This was a summer of stampedes.*

The Crocketts were in Enoch Reese's 50. He was mason and a grocer by trade, and he was an inexperienced wagon master making his first crossing. The group also contained George Washington Hancock, who would later figure prominently in the Crocketts' lives after they moved to Payson. Hancock had finished his duty with the Mormon Battalion and was now bringing his family to Utah. The captain of the other 50, Reddick Allred, was part of the

[102] The other families in Moore's 10 wagons were headed by Jehiel McConnell, George Barker, Frederick Barker, Frederick Froerer, and Daniel Bull.

large family that would eventually establish Spring City in Sanpete County. Sixteen of the Allreds were traveling with him.[103]

Reddick Allred's group left first on July 5th and although the Reese 50 with the Crocketts left the next day, they did not catch up for 20 miles. According to Roxanna's history, she and her sisters pushed a handcart alongside the wagon. The Elkhorn River was not fordable, and they had to cross the wagons and teams one by one on a raft.

On July 16th there was a stampede of the cattle and oxen. The next day the pioneers mended their wagons, but that night the animals stampeded again. On July 18th the "awful stampede" happened. The company's cattle stampeded after a sheep ran among them trying to escape a dog, running over three men including a Negro called Old Frank. Capt. Reese suggested that they separate the companies of 10 and killed some dogs, who had run off four cows. All three men were injured including one with a broken leg.

The "corral" was spooking the animals, who instead of adjusting over time, only became more agitated. Faced with choosing between stampedes and Indian attacks, the company decided it might be safer to take their chances with the Indians and began to tie up their cattle outside the camp, and to travel and camp separately in groups of 10 to keep the animals from interacting. They travelled more slowly because of this and had to let other trains pass. But stampedes became the hallmark of the group, and they continued. I read about a dozen trail diaries from the Allen Company, and every one of them contained stampede stories.

Once the animals became accustomed to stampeding, even the smaller groups were not immune. James A. Little wrote...*so subject to panic did the cattle become, that the leaders of the people thought it advisable for the companies to break up into tens long before reaching Laramie. The following morning, after this was done, the cattle of Captain Lorenzo Clark's ten to which the writer belonged, stampeded (anyway) with quite serious loss.*

In her memoir, Emily Lydia Snyder, then only three years old, said that one stampede was caused by a colored woman shaking out a white table cloth. The man whose leg was broken was Emily's father, George Gideon Snyder, who had to be transported in a wagon the rest of the way.

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[103] There were several other notable families in the company. Three of George Q. Cannon's siblings travelled in the group: His younger brothers David Henry (age 11) and Angus Munn (age 15), his sister Mary Alice with her husband George Cannon Lambert and their two toddler sons. George Lambert later married Rosie Matthews, Sarah Oakey's cousin who had been adopted by George Q. Cannon. William Bateman and his young family also travelled with the group. He was a cousin of my second great grandfather, James Morgan Bateman.

On July 30th the group reached the plains. On that day they began to cook with buffalo chips, as there was no more wood to be found. They sighted their first buffalo herd on August 2nd. The company killed several and brought one into camp, and also a calf.

The family lore tells an inspiring story of Lydia Crockett finding water to aid the company. If it is more than a legend, it probably happened at about this stage of the trip. This is one version.

They had traveled so long without water that they felt they could no longer continue unless they soon found something to quench their thirst. After investigating the area and finding that everything was so dry, they had all given up hope of finding water.

Lydia went into one of the wagons and knelt down in sincere prayer. She told the Lord that they were going across the plains for the Gospel's sake. She told him of the predicament they were in, and beseeched Him to make it known to her where they could find water.

The company had camped by a small hill. It was made known to her that if she would dig by a certain bush on this hill they would find water. She took a man and a shovel and went directly to the spot shown to her. They dug about two feet and found a lonely spring of water, which was marked for all future travelers on the plains, blessing many lives by her singular faith.

Unfortunately, I was not able to find any mention of this in the available trail journals. Perhaps the fact that the company was atypically divided into small groups prevented the story of the miracle from going beyond the Crockett family.

On August 5th, George A. Smith and Ezra T. Benson, who were traveling with the company, wrote to Orson Hyde in Salt Lake City from the trail about the cattle stampedes, which they attributed to inexperience of the travelers, and nothing which better ropes and chains could not prevent. They did not seem to think that their innovative corral instructions played a role at all.

William Blood wrote on August 10th, *All along up the Platte River for two or three hundred miles we saw thousands of buffalo every day. They were so numerous they could not be counted. Large herds were scattered all over the prairie as far as the eye could see. This was daily for weeks. Sometimes they came close to our wagons. I saw more buffalo that summer than I have ever seen of tame cattle in my life.*

The most picturesque account of a cattle stampede was contributed by Margaret Gay Judd Clawson, then age 17. *After jogging along several hundred miles the monotony was broken by our cattle stampeding. It seemed the longer we went and the harder the cattle worked the easier they got frightened. The one that terrified me the most was at night. We had had one or two before, so the cattle were <u>prepared</u> for one at any moment. I think it was on account of the Indians or it might have been the large herds of buffalo that we saw daily, that our*

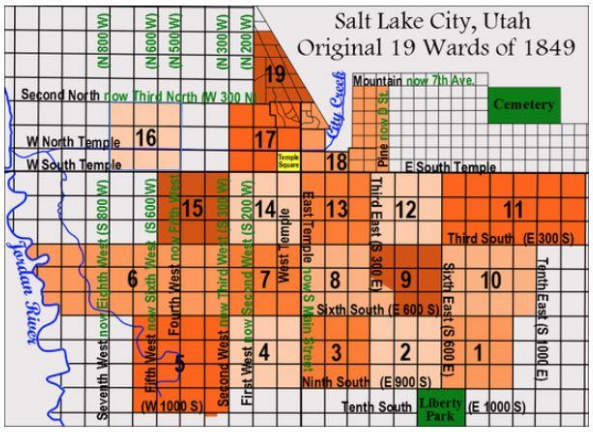
company was counseled to corral their animals every night. When we camped at night the cattle were turned out to feed, they were watched and herded then brought into the corral. It was made with wagons formed in a large circle with the wheels touching each other with one opening to drive them in, then log chains put across the opening, so they were perfectly secure. We were in a buffalo country. We had heard what a terrible thing their stampedes were that not long before a large herd had started on their maddening mad run & that when the foremost those in front came to a high bluff of the Platte River, they dashed in and made a bridge for the last ones who trampled to death and drowned their companions. One night about two oclock the whole camp were peacefully sleeping when all at once there came an awful sound of tramping and bellowing. The ground shook, our wagon trembled and rocked. It flashed through my mind in a moment that a herd of buffalo was stampeding and in a minute that we would all be trampled to death so I covered up my head and prepared to die. Mother soon called out to Phebe and myself, but not hearing anything as there was no sound from our little bedroom (the front end of the wagon) I gave a smothered answer from under the bed clothes that I was alive. All at once there was a change. It was our own cattle broken out of the corral. Something had frightened them and then they started on their wild mad run. They had run around and around inside, and then broken through the log chains. Nothing could stay them. They scattered over the country for miles and miles. It took our men days and days to gather them back again, and a sorry looking lot they were that is what those that were left for some died from exhaustion and others were killed.

Margaret Gay Judd Clawson

According to William Adams, only one person was killed on the trip, the wife of Br. (William) Hawk. This was 59 year old Margaret Harris Hawk, who was killed in a "buffalo" stampede on September 4, 1849 in Ash Hollow, Nebraska, leaving five kids. According to Captain Allen Taylor in his report to Brigham Young from the trail, Sister Hawk was actually run over by the stampeding cattle. He wrote that they had experienced two or three heavy stampedes, but none since Chimney Rock. Taylor also wrote that he was worried about George A. Smith, who was "heavy laden with church property", but had a light team." They didn't want to leave him behind but wanted BY to give some advice. The problem was likely the apostle himself, and not just the Church property, which Taylor had tactfully blamed. George A. was 5' 10" and weighed over 250 lbs. Apostle Smith was not listed as a member of the company, although he traveled with them. Brigham Young took the hint. On September 16th Jesse Morgan wrote, *met the teams from the valley going to meet Geo. Smith. They numbered twenty-one wagons.*

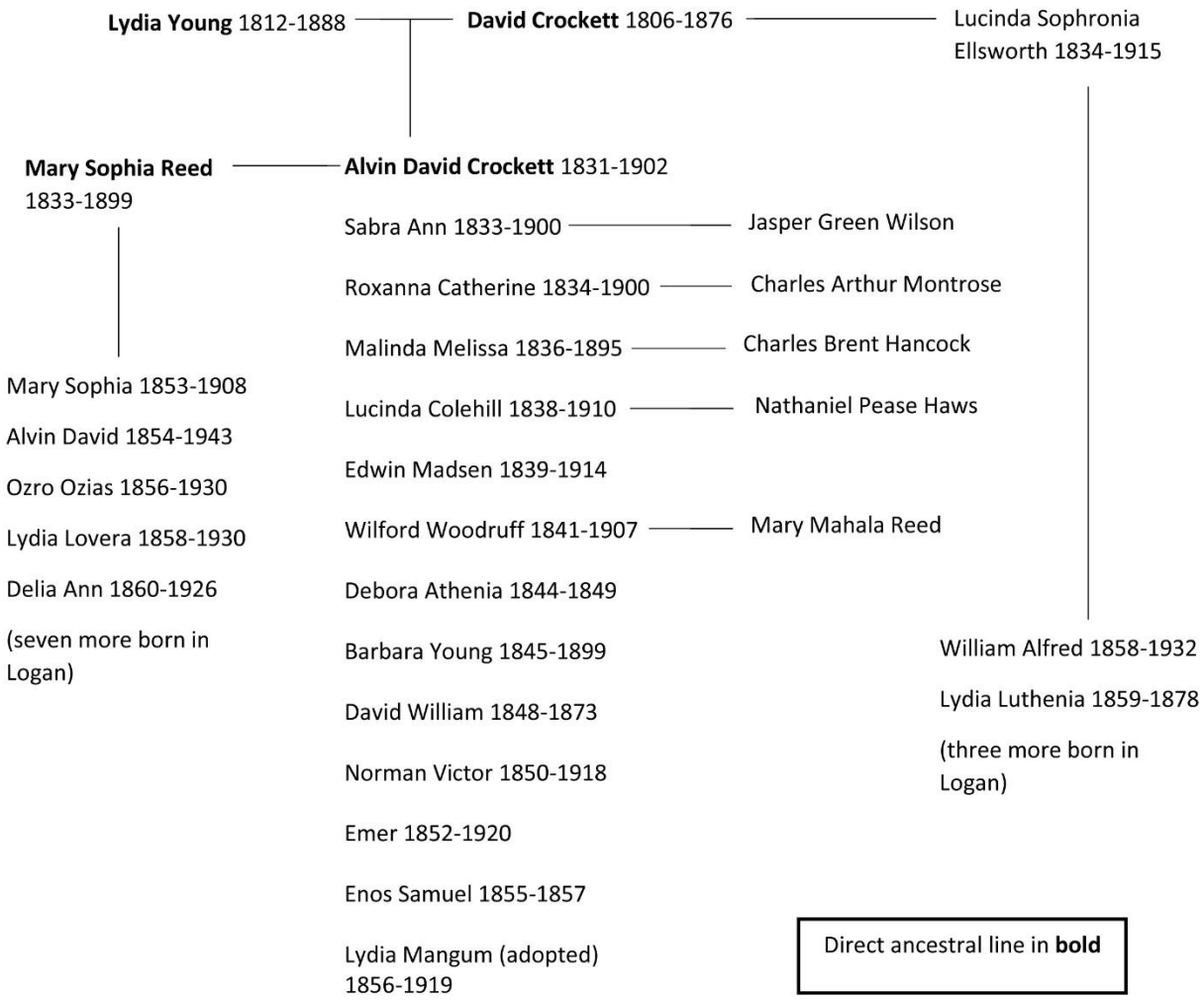
Morgan wrote on September 24th, *Green River encampment. Warm and pleasant.* And on October 1st: *Ft. Bridger. Met Capt. Bridger, a frank, openhearted mountaineer.* They were on the home stretch.

The company, divided up as it was, did not all arrive on the same day, but dribbled into the valley as small groups over about 10 days. The Crocketts arrived in Deseret on October 19, 1849, which happened to be Alvin Crockett's 18th birthday. According to the family histories, they built a house in the Salt Lake City First Ward under Bishop David Fairbanks and lived there until Brigham Young called them to settle Payson. But that is not the whole story, as we shall see in the next chapter.



PAYSON

Crockett Pedigree -- Payson



It could be said that the great move west for the Crocketts did not end until they settled in Payson, but at the time they left Vinalhaven, there was no such place as Payson, not for another decade or so.

Three days after Brigham Young and the vanguard pioneer party entered the Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847 he sent a scouting party south into Utah Valley including the area that later became Payson. They explored Utah Lake, found several good streams, and felt that the valley was fertile on the basis of the luxurious growth of sagebrush.[104] On August 12, 1847 Mormon pioneer Albert Carrington with two others dragged a boat on wheels to Utah Lake and entered its northern outlet. That November Brigham Young dispatched Jefferson Hunt's party through Utah Valley on their way to explore a southern route to California. In December Parley P. Pratt and Brother Higbee (probably John) and several others went to Utah Lake with a boat and a fish net. They sailed up and down the west shore, but only caught a few mountain trout and other fish, and returned in a day or two.

On October 10, 1848 a fifteen year old girl named Mary Sophia Reed arrived in Salt Lake City in the Willard Richards and Amasa Lyman Company. You will soon read the story of her eventual marriage to Alvin Crockett. Sophia had traveled with her widowed mother Delia Deliverance Byam Reed Curtis, a married sister named Sarah Ann with her husband Joseph Curtis and their baby Sarah Jane, and her brothers Samuel Jones Reed, John Reed, and Calvin Reed, who was married to Mary Curtis and had an infant son named Heber. Unfortunately, her seventeen year old brother John tragically disappeared on the trip and was never seen again. Also in the party were two unmarried step brothers George and Hyrum Curtis.

Another book like this one could be written on Sophia's family, so it is with regret that I can only give this brief sketch. Delia Deliverance Byam had married her first cousin Tillison Reed in New Hampshire in 1810. They joined the Mormon Church and moved to Clay County, Missouri with their seven unmarried children, leaving three behind. Tillison died there of illness during the persecutions in August of 1836, leaving Delia with the kids, all under seventeen. Sophia was only three. Delia managed to get them all to Hancock County, where she married Nahum Curtis in Nauvoo, who had been recently widowed and had eight children of his own, ages 10-29. The two families seemed to merge effectively, in fact there were two marriages between the Reed and Curtis stepchildren. Then in March of 1846, Nahum died, just as things were getting dangerous in Nauvoo for the Mormons. Delia immediately became a plural wife of a friend of Nahum's named Levi Jackman, and by

[104] Before 1776, The Ute tribe and other Native Americans hunted and fished throughout the area now called Utah County. On September 26, 1776 Father Sylvestre Veliz de Escalante and his party of nine Spanish Explorers camped on Peteetneet Creek.

coincidence the very man who had performed her marriage to Nahum. Levi Jackman seems to have taken Delia in marriage mostly to take care of her. He was eight years younger than Delia and already had two other wives. He had been close to the Curtis family when Nahum died, and he helped Delia to get their combined families across the plains from Nauvoo. They lived together briefly in Salt Lake City, but separated when Levi married another wife (he eventually had seven), and Delia with many of her children and step-children—the Reeds and the Curtises--ended up later moving to Peteetneet.

The winter of 1848-49 was a severe one, followed by a summer of starvation in the Salt Lake Valley. According to Sophia's family biography, the family dug sego lily bulbs for vegetables that winter and were doled out dry corn a half cup at a time. Sophia attended finishing school in the Salt Lake valley and took her ration of corn to school for lunch. She worked for the Raleigh family as a housekeeper.

On January 6, 1849 the First Presidency called Amasa Lyman, Orrin P. Rockwell, George and Jedediah M. Grant and others to explore Utah Valley to *learn its capabilities for a stock range and that when the cattle went, forty or fifty men should go with them.* Lyman reported back to Brigham, recommending against taking cattle, probably because of the many Indians. Soon the first party of settlers were in the valley. Fort Utah (sometimes called Fort Provo) was founded on March 29, 1849 by John S. Higbee and about 30 families comprising 150 persons from the Salt Lake settlement. Thirty men went first and then brought their families in May.

The first camp was approximately where the current Third North and 21st West streets in Provo would intersect if extended, about two tenths of a mile east of the lake and two miles west of the center of Provo on the north bank of the river. Records vary, but it was probably about 300 x 150 feet in area. Log cabins were built side by side with split lumber and dirt for roofs. Doors faced inward and floors were puncheons (split logs) or dirt. A six lb. cannon was put on a mound about 10-15 feet high in the center of the fort sometime in August, 1849. The structure was completed in about six weeks, just as Indian hostilities began.

Jefferson Hunt, the Mormon Battalion leader, was among the original group. He was named commander of a militia of 60 men of whom fifteen were Battalion veterans until he was called upon once more to travel to California, leading a party of Mormons and gentile gold seekers, who had wintered in Utah.

That was in September, 1849, when the Crocketts were still on their trek--battling cattle stampedes and camping at Independence Rock in Wyoming.

On September 14th Brigham Young with Willard Richards and Heber C. Kimball were ready to take a first-hand look at Fort Utah and traveled to the settlement in three carriages. By September 17th Brigham had laid out a town site two miles to the east of the fort. It was a mile square with blocks of four acres, each divided into eight lots of a half-acre each, reserving the center block for a chapel and school.

The Crocketts had been in Salt Lake City for about a month, when on November 22, 1849 Isaac Morley and 224 people, having made their way through Utah County and unsettled Indian lands in the Sanpete Valley, created the town of Manti.

By then, Parley P. Pratt, W.W. Phelps, and David Fullmer with 50 men had been commissioned to explore more settlement sites even further south. With them was Benjamin Franklin Stewart, who was to later settle in Payson in March 1852. On November 28, 1849 they reached the place where Payson currently is. On November 30th, they rode up Salt Creek Canyon east of present day Nephi and found rock salt and hieroglyphic characters engraved in volcanic rock. Then they found the saints in Manti and moved on south to visit the site where Marysvale would be settled. They continued further to the future sites of Cedar City, Toquerville, and Santa Clara before struggling to get home through snow in late January.

On January 31, 1850, Utah County was organized, with Provo the county seat. That year the U.S. Congressional Compromise of 1850 allowed New Mexico and Utah territories to choose or outlaw slavery. California was admitted as a free state. Utah Territory chose slavery.

Responding to complaints from the Fort Utah settlement, a large militia in Salt Lake City was organized that month. It is possible that Alvin Crockett was among them. Family sources say that he joined the militia group called the Minutemen[105] upon arrival to the Salt Lake Valley, which could have happened several months prior to this event. On February 8, 1850 the militia surrounded an encampment of Utes at Big Elk near Fort Utah, killing most of the men and taking the women and children to Salt Lake as prisoners. One white man, Joseph Higbee, was killed and 18 Mormons were wounded. Between 40 and 100 Indians were killed.[106]

There was a romance happening in the Crockett family in Salt Lake City that winter. A young gentile man named Charles Arthur Montrose, who had set out with his older brother

[105] The Minute Men or Lifeguards were Company B of the re-organized Nauvoo Legion under George D. Grant, which had been re-established in Salt Lake Valley when the State of Deseret's Provisional Government was organized on March 12, 1849. This branch of the militia was tasked with protection of the Salt Lake Valley from the Indians. The Minute Man organization persisted until at least the 1880s and Alvin was an officer during that decade in the Cache Valley branch.

[106] *A historical Study of the Exploration of Utah Valley and the Story of Fort Utah.* BYU Master's Thesis, Ray C. Colton, 1946. This reference was very helpful for much of my description of the early settlement of Provo.

John for the California gold rush, arrived in the Salt Lake Valley around the same time as the Crocketts. They may have joined up with a Mormon wagon train at some point, possibly even with the Crocketts. After Charles developed a romantic relationship with 15 year old Rosanna Crockett, the two brothers split up and John went on to California. Charles and Roxanna were married civilly in Salt Lake City on February 16, 1850.

Most of the Crockett family stories mention that Alvin Crockett spent time in the California gold fields. Although I could not find primary historical evidence for that, I think it is true. If so, I wonder if he went there with Charles Montrose's older brother John. In any case, Alvin could not have been gone for more than a year, for he was back in time to be counted in the census with his family around April 1, 1851. He is said to have not been very successful as a prospector, bringing home barely enough gold to make an engagement ring for Sophia Reed, which is said to remain to this day in the possession of a Crockett descendant.

On March 14, 1850 Norman Victor Crockett was born to David and Lydia in Salt Lake City, giving them ten living children. If born at term, he would have been conceived on the day that the Crocketts left Iowa, which no doubt made the trip much more uncomfortable for Lydia if she was prone to morning sickness, which would have peaked in July and August of the trek.

In April, Fort Utah was moved, complete with the stockade, cabins, and barns, two miles east to Adobe Yard, now known as North Park or Sowiette Park at the current intersection of Fifth West and Fifth North in Provo. The new enclosure was made larger, covering over a city block, and the buildings and stockade were larger. That spring many new immigrants were sent to Provo. On May 20, 1850 Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball went to Fort Utah for peace talks with the Indians, which were largely successful.

Due to the many new colonists in the spring, summer, and fall of 1850 there was an addition made to the fort on the south side. During the summer of 1850 William M. Lemon and Peter Conover surveyed the northwest part of Provo. The public square they laid out is now known as Pioneer Park.

By then the whole Utah Valley was deemed safe enough to Mormon colonization. In July President Young sent men to colonize Grove Creek, later to be called Pleasant Grove. On September 12th he ordered the colonization of Dry Creek (Lehi), and on September 18th, Hobble Creek (Springville).

The U.S. Congress officially recognized Utah as a Territory on September 9, 1850, directing the governor to take a census of the counties and districts (Indians excepted) of Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, Utah, Sanpete, Iron, Tooele, and Green River.

On September 23, 1850 Brigham young sent the first colonists to Peteetneet Creek. On October 20th James Pace,[107] Andrew Jackson Stewart, John Courtland Searle and their family members totaling 17 people moved to Nebeker's Grove near Peteetneet Creek, now Payson. Log cabins were quickly constructed, on what later became Third North, from Second West to Second East streets. William Byram Pace, the son of James Pace, wrote in his journal...*We built a double log house with a sod chimney in the middle and were very comfortable. Stewart and Searle turned an Ell to the north. Then we all set up pickets of cottonwood and made a nice little fort so that we wintered nicely.* Peteetneet Creek, their source of water, ran through the center of the fort.

Brigham Young issued a call in Salt Lake City that November for more volunteers to move to Peteetneet, and many settlers followed the next few months. James Ephraim Daniels and family arrived in Peteetneet on December 1st and lived there four years. On December 7th the Joseph Curtis family arrived in Peteetneet with his wife Sally Ann Reed Curtis and two children. Sally was the older sister of Sophia, who would later marry Alvin Crockett. Joseph's brother George and wife soon arrived along with Foster Curtis and Pete Jackman. They had traveled that far along with Isaac Morley and others, who had visited Salt Lake City and were headed back to their families in Manti. Joseph had a cabin finished by December 18th.

Apostle George A. Smith's group arrived at Peteetneet for conference on December 20th. He organized a branch there with James Pace as president, James McClelland and Elias Gardner as counselors. All present were re-baptized. According to Joseph Curtis' diary, Charles Brent Hancock arrived in Peteetneet on December 22nd. He was a brother to George Washington Hancock, who had traveled west with the Crocketts, and Charles would later become the ward's second bishop.

The first schoolhouse in Payson was constructed that winter and finished in early spring. That is probably when Sophia Reed came down from Salt Lake as the town's first school teacher, joining her three brothers' families. Her brother Calvin Reed moved to Peteetneet on January 28, 1851 with their step-sister Mary Curtis Reed, whom he had married. In February came Breed Searle and William Cornwall Patten, and in March came three families named Plumb, who were children of Levi Jackman's second wife.

On March 19, 1851 Brigham Young rode in his carriage to Provo again to organize the Utah Stake of Zion with Isaac Higbee president, and then went to Peteetneet. He renamed it Pacen (which soon changed to Payson) after its first settler, James Pace, the branch president. Brigham called Benjamin Cross to be bishop. Later that day, the apostles Parley

[107] James Pace had been the leader of a wagon company of 259 saints that arrived in Salt Lake City that very day. He had served as a policeman in Nauvoo as a member of the Nauvoo Sentinels (Redcoats) and in the Mormon Battalion.

P. Pratt and Charles C. Rich arrived just ahead of scores of wagons, forming a train of Mormon immigrants bound for San Bernardino, California. As the group gathered they pretty much overwhelmed the Payson population. The wagon party numbered about 500 people, mostly converts from the southern states along with 26 slaves. On March 24th the California pioneers were organized into companies for their trek.

On March 28, 1851 Thomas Bullock, the personal secretary to Brigham Young and the clerk of the Territorial Legislature received formal instructions to take a census of the new Utah Territory. The population was to be counted as of the reference date of April 1, 1851. This is an important and little known point, for the official 1850 U.S. Census reference date for all of the states had been set nearly a year earlier on June 1, 1850. In the national archives the belated Utah territorial census became wrapped into the earlier official census, which has ever since then caused miscalculations of a whole year when used as a genealogical source.[108]

The entire Utah census, including Salt Lake and Utah Counties was rendered in the immaculate handwriting of Thomas Bullock, and there are parts of the Crockett family recorded in both counties.

The Utah County census is divided into two groups of families listed with two sets of consecutive house numbers, but there is no mention of streets or towns. After painstaking study, I have concluded that the first and largest group contained the settlers of all the infant towns in Utah County, and that the second group was actually the large wagon train that was camped in Payson as their jumping-off point. I say that because most of the families that I identified in the latter group hailed from southern states and had many subsequent children born in San Bernardino. Also, the group contained 494 persons in 166 "houses," which approximates the historical number of people and wagons headed to California. The first group contained 1501 persons and 295 houses. It is tricky to figure out, since the names do not appear to be sorted by town. Also, some of the Provo settlers such as Jefferson Hunt, Amasa Lyman, and Charles C. Rich went to San Bernardino with the California group. In the census, these three were not listed with the Provo settlers, but were the first of the California party to be listed, along with Parley P. Pratt, who was not from Provo, but traveled with them.

I am not sure why Brigham Young and his secretary decided to include the San Bernardino group in the Utah census—they would not be in the Utah Territory very much longer. But the emigrants were technically living in the state on the reference date for the census, so perhaps there was no choice but to include them. Doing that certainly did nothing to

[108] C. Ward Despain, Brigham Young University Master's thesis: *Thomas Bullock, Early Mormon Pioneer*, BYU Scholars Archive, 1956. Pages 64, 65.

design proper legislative districts. Some of the census must have been recorded after the reference date of April 1, since the Crocketts were listed, although they still had not arrived in Payson.

The Crocketts finally arrived at Payson from Salt Lake City on April 24, 1851 along with several other families. They had been advised by Brigham Young to move that winter but had delayed the trip until spring. Upon arriving, they were informed that there was not enough water to support more families in Payson, so the group turned east, and settled in what became known as Pond Town. The Crocketts were accompanied by their Salt Lake bishop, David Fairbanks with his family, the bishop's brother John Boylston Fairbanks with his wife, Sarah Van Wagoner, and the widow Elizabeth Hunter Wilson and her two sons David and Bradley, both around 20. She was the aunt of Jasper Wilson, who had just married Sabra Ann Crockett and was living with Crocketts. Jasper had arrived in Utah in 1850 with his parents, who moved to Farmington about when he went south.

From the history of John Boylston Fairbanks: *In 1851, John B., with others, moved south to Payson, Utah county, but the fifteen families then residing on Peteetneet creek objected to others settling there, on account of a scarcity of water; hence (they)...went three miles east (of Peteetneet) to a place where the water from a large spring flowed down a ravine. They made a dam across the ravine and took the water out onto the land which secured them good crops. This place was called Pondtown (now Salem); subsequently (two years later) these pioneer settlers of Pondtown were compelled to move to (the) Payson (fort) for safety on account of some troubles with the Indians.* Payson's population had by then reached 427.

The Utah County census, including but not naming Pond Town, shows David Crocket, 44, farmer from Maine, living in house number 77 (of 295), right next door to his former Salt Lake bishop, David Fairbanks. With David were Lydia, 39, Alvin, 20, and Sabra, 18. In the adjacent dwelling were Sabra's husband Jasper Wilson, 24, listed as a blacksmith from Ohio and Roxanna Crockett, 16, Malinda, 15, Lucinda, 13, Edwin, 11, Wilford, 10, Barbara, 8, Daniel W., 4, and Norman, 1.

Interestingly Roxanna and Sabra also showed up in Salt Lake County in the 1850 (1851) census, so they must have been counted there just before moving to Utah County. Roxanna was listed as married to Charles Montrose, age 19. They were living seven houses down the street from Sarah Pea Rich, who had declined to go with her husband Charles C. Rich and his three younger wives to California. Roxanna's husband Charles Montrose was baptized a Mormon in March, 1851 by Bishop David Fairbanks just before the bishop and the Crockett family departed for Pond Town. Charles and Roxanna followed her parents to Pond Town later that summer, but at LDS Conference that year in Salt Lake City, Charles Arthur Montrose, with 10 other persons, was excommunicated from the Church for *conduct unbecoming the character of Latter-Day Saints.* Remarks had previously been made upon

the subject of men coming into the Salt Lake Valley as "winter saints," who were baptized, but only to get the privilege of working in the mines and did not otherwise conform to the laws of the church or the community. Charles was eventually reinstated in the church and actually became a seventy. He and Roxanna had their first child September 24, 1851 at Pond Town.

Sabra and Jasper were shown in the Salt Lake County census living next door to Jasper's parents. His father, Whitford Gill Wilson, also a blacksmith, had once been arrested by the mob in Jackson County along with Joseph and Hyrum Smith. Sabra and Jasper seem to have moved to Pond Town in April, 1851 at the same time as her parents and Jasper's aunt Elizabeth.

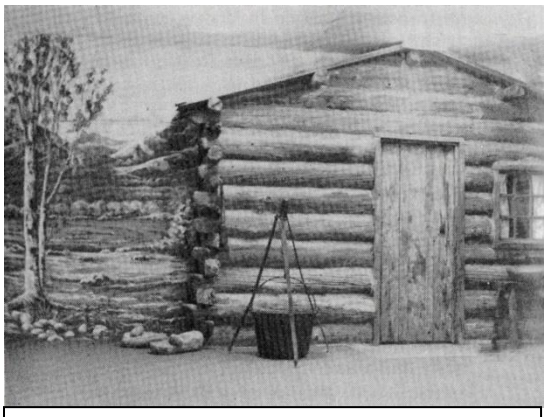
In the same Salt Lake County Census, Sophia Reed (Alvin Crockett's future wife) was shown living with her mother Delia in the household of Levi Jackman. If Sophia started teaching that spring, she must have headed south right after being counted.

On June 14, 1851 David Crockett's father James died in Vinalhaven at the age of 74.

The first post office in Payson was established in 1852.

On February 25, another son named Emer Crockett was born in Payson to David and Lydia.

On June 20, 1852 Alvin Crockett married the schoolteacher, Sophia Reed in Payson. He was 20 and she was 18 years old. In addition to teaching, Sophia had many other skills. She was said to have carded wool and made her own dyes to color yarn, using aniline, indigo, golden rod, and logwood for colors. She wove the cloth, sewed clothing for her family, and also knit stockings. Alvin was said to have made shoes, at least for himself and his family. He built adobe houses for others, and mended their shoes, tubs, buckets, and barrels. He continued to serve as a member of the militia and guard. No doubt he also did a lot of farming.



This cabin is presumed to be David Crockett's house. It was found on his original lot and re-assembled to display in the Payson DUP museum in 1982.

On August 23, 1852, the founder of Payson, James Pace, was called on a three year mission to England. He would miss a very historic chapter of Payson's history, and the mantle of leadership shifted to David Crockett and Charles Brent Hancock.

On January 21, 1853 Payson was incorporated as a town with David Crockett as the first mayor, and Charles Brent Hancock was elected city marshal. David was re-elected mayor

for three consecutive terms ending in 1859.[109] On February 27th Lydia and David were sealed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City.

On June 8, 1853 Alvin and Sophia had their first child, Mary Sophia Crockett. At the time they were living in an unfinished house--just a log room without a door or windows. The roof was still under construction, with the willows in place, but not the sod. The night of Mary's birth, it rained on the bed, soaking it. Alvin dried the bedding over a fire on forked sticks and the baby and Sophie seemed to have no ill effects.

According to the journal of Joseph Curtis (Sophia Reed's step-brother), Arapeen, the brother of Chief Walker visited the Payson ward on July 3rd and partook of the sacrament. This was felt to be a good sign because the Indians had been encroaching on the town. But the good feelings didn't last long. On July 17th while Chief Walker and his tribe were camped on Spring Creek, about a mile north of Springville, fishing, hunting, trading and begging, they got into a fight with James Ivie, who killed one of them.

The very next day in Payson on July 18, 1853 Joseph Curtis wrote...*Monday, at work on the adobe yard, mixed mud with oxen, dark, heard a gun. O Lord, it was the fatal shot to Alexander Keel by an Indian. He died instantly. Great stir here in town this evening.*

This was the beginning of the Walker War. The Payson settlers had built a temporary fort of log pickets about nine feet high. Now a new fort was started.

Joseph wrote further on July 24th...*All brethren returned home by noon. Brother Berry and (his) father, returning from Sanpete as an express, were shot at and both wounded*, and on August 21st...*I was busily engaged in assisting the brethren pull down and repair their houses, all willing to form a line of building, some 60 rods square, also harvesting my crop, went to the mill for lumber and wood some, and once to summit for wheat at the request of Brother Holman.*

On August 23rd Joseph added...*A company of soldiers under Wm. Kimball, that had been south, returned this day. Our place, like others at the present time, is in charge of the military officers who are acting in compliance with the general orders which is to save all the grain and sufficient hay for our cattle being continually on the watch, besides standing guard every 3rd night.* No doubt Alvin Crockett was active in the community's defense.

That summer and fall, the Walker Utes raided settlements in Utah, Juab, Sanpete, Millard, and Iron Counties. On October 25, 1853 while Captain John Williams Gunnison, U.S. Army

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[109] Andrew Jensen, Encyclopedic History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1941.

was exploring the area of the Sevier River for a railroad route through the Rocky Mountains, a band of Pahvant Indians attacked, killing the captain and three others.

On December 30, 1853 David Crockett's older brother James Crockett died in Vinalhaven at the age of 60.

The Walker War continued into the next year. On January 6, 1854 Allred's settlement (now Spring City) was burned to the ground and the Allred clan moved for protection to the fort in Ephraim.

In February, Captain Charles Hancock of Payson captured two Utes, one being the son of Chief Peteetneet. Hancock sent one of the Utes to deliver a message to Chief Peteetneet, that he would hold the Chief's son until he could be granted an interview with the Chief. The Chief came the next day, and spoke with the citizens, and agreed to terms of peace. The Walker War ended a short time later.

In the meantime, Mayor Crockett was leading the civic issues of Payson. It was recorded on March 21, 1854 that...*Mayor Crockett stated it was necessary that the town have a code of laws, and fines were to be kept for the benefit of the city.*

On May 5th Charles Brent Hancock was ordained the second bishop of the Payson LDS Branch. James McClellan and John B. Fairbanks were called as his counselors. The men were ordained by Apostles George A. Smith and Ezra T. Benson. Just over a week later on May 13, 1854 the bishop's wife Priscilla died at the age of 24, leaving him a two months old infant and two other children ages two and four.

I think it is time to pause and tell you a little bit more about Bishop Hancock, for he will continue to figure importantly in the story of the Crocketts.

Charles Hancock's family joined the Mormon Church in the fall of 1830 in Ohio after being contacted by early missionaries including Parley P. Pratt. They were descendants of John Hancock, signer of the Declaration of Independence and had migrated to Ohio from Massachusetts when Charles was seven. First his grandfather, Thomas Hancock, was baptized and then his father and his uncles. Charles' father was Solomon Hancock, who is mentioned in D&C 52:27. There is much more that I could say about the whole family, but I'll leave that for you to look up. At the age of 22 Charles and his two years younger brother George Washington Hancock joined the Mormon Battalion. At this point in the story, George had not yet come to Payson to live, but Charles had been an important leader, having established a grist mill, a lumber mill, a mountain road for bring lumber to the town, a tannery, and an operation to manufacture charcoal.

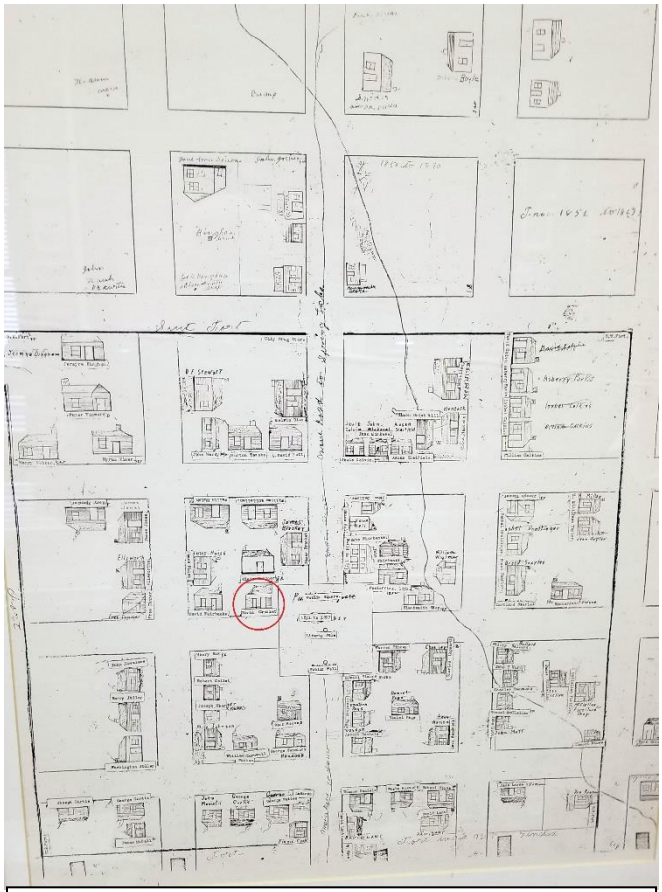
The apostles Charles Coulson Rich and George Quayle Cannon spoke to the people of Payson on May 10, 1854. President Brigham Young held a meeting with Chief Walker, and a formal peace treaty was signed at Chicken Creek, Juab County, Utah. This ended the Ute War (though not all fighting between the settlers and Indians, unfortunately).

On May 22, the sawmill which was owned by Charles Brent Hancock and Benjamin Franklin Stewart burned down.

January 29, 1855 Chief Walker died at Meadow Creek, Millard County, Utah. His brother, Arapeen, succeeded him as Chief.

In February, nine months after his wife's death, Bishop Charles Hancock married David and Lydia Crockett's third daughter Malinda, age 17. By the end of the year they had a daughter, whom they named after her mother and a son named after Charles two years after that, and four more by 1865, after which she divorced him. By then Charles had married four more women.

That winter David Crockett was elected to his second term as mayor. Charles B. Hancock was on the city council and so was Alvin's brother-in-law, Joseph Curtis, the diarist quoted above. Construction continued on the Payson Fort. The wall of mud and rock grew to eight feet high, four feet thick at the bottom and two feet thick at the top, which sloped to the inside. A four-foot-deep trench was dug around the outside wall. At each corner a bastion with portholes protruded ten feet outside the wall.



Map of Payson 1851-1857 from Payson Museum. David Crockett's house circled next to town square with well and liberty pole.

Joseph Curtis mentioned a visit from the first presidency in his journal on March 5, 1855. Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Brother Grant and a company going south stopped for a meeting in Payson. Evidently they were not happy with what they saw. Joseph quoted President Kimball...*I want you to clean up, build, make improvements. Your fort looks like a large house with a back house in the*

center. Where is your Mayor? And if you have no Mayor...what are your city officers about, etc.? President Young, "I want you to pay heed to what you have heard and I would be glad to see you better your condition etc."

Enos Samuel Crockett was born March 13, 1855 in Payson, David and Lydia's 14th child. Lydia was known as an excellent midwife, perhaps to herself as well.

On November 7th James Pace returned from his mission to England, having been gone three years and three months. Thereafter the place started getting very serious about religion. On December 9, 1855 Joseph G. Harvey visited Payson as a special missionary, and the "Harvey Reformation" took place. Many people repented and renewed their covenants by baptism. Joseph Curtis was a participant and wrote about this in his diary a follows.

December 14th. When C.B. Hancock, John B. Fairbanks, Joseph Curtis with the city council were baptized under the hands of James Pace, after which Thos. Adair baptized 7. T.C.D. Howell baptized 12, cold and snowing --- 3 o'clock --- confirmation at the tithing office, the Bishop confirmed under the hands of Jos. G. Hovey, J.B. Fairbanks, and Joseph Curtis.

John B. Fairbanks sustained and blessed as first counselor to the Bishop and Joseph Curtis second as had been previously voted. Meeting this evening J. Fosgreen requesting to speak, the Bishop not willing, the meeting continued with increased interest, several requested to be baptized the next morning. 15th: I was present when 30 renewed their covenants. I baptized eight.

It appears that the "Mormon Reformation" had begun a year early in Payson. Most that sort of activity in the rest of the state happened in 1856-7.

George Washington Hancock, the younger brother of Bishop Charles Brent Hancock moved to Payson in 1856. He was just 30 years old. George had crossed the plains in 1849 with the Crocketts in the Allen Company and came to Payson from Davis County with his second wife and children after being called by President Brigham Young. George was a talented businessman, and he began many different businesses in Payson, which gave employment to many. George started a store, a tannery, a shoe and harness factory, a lumber yard, and a butcher shop. He also built a grist mill, and later, a creamery and canning establishment. He built the first electric power plant in Payson, and also helped to build the Payson Opera House. He worked in the coal and lumber business. He was ordained a Seventy, and a High Priest. In 1856 the first carload of fruit was shipped out of Payson. G.W. Hancock organized the fruit industry in Payson that continues to this day including peach trees from stones brought from Nauvoo, apples, Pottawattamie plums, raspberries, and currants. He is said to have adopted and raised an Indian girl named Mary, who later married Chief Kanosh.

On July 23, 1856 David Crockett took a second wife. Lucinda Sophronia Ellsworth had come with her family to Utah in 1848 and was living with them in Salt Lake City in 1851. At the age of 18 she married George Pierce in Salt Lake on January 21, 1853. They made their home in Santaquin but when Indian trouble broke out that summer they moved for safety to Payson where his brother Isaac was living. There they had their first child, a boy named George on February 14, 1854. According to George Pierce's autobiography, they moved to Ogden in 1855 to try to better their condition. There they had a second son on December 9, 1855 whom they named Amasa Ephraim. George did not explain why, but they moved back to Payson that spring. I think Lucinda's parents had moved there from Salt Lake in the meantime. In George's words, *soon after we moved back to Payson my wife became dissatisfied. Through misrepresentations and persuasion of her father and others, she left me, or in other words we separated.*

Lucinda did not leave a record of her version of the story, but I suspect it would have read differently. For one thing, their first born boy, George Jr., died in May that year at the age of 15 months. A divorce decree from the Utah County Probate Docket in Provo dated June 20, 1856 contained this statement. *Lucinda S. Pierce, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that her husband George H. Pierce has been willfully guilty of misusing and has neglected to provide for his family and that their peace and welfare requires a separation.*

George took Amasa Ephraim, who was only six months old, to Fillmore where they moved in with George's mother, who helped him to raise the child to adulthood. Lucinda, then not yet 22 years old, and David Crockett at age 49 were married six weeks after her divorce and soon moved together to Ogden for a while.

I can understand why David found it advisable to leave Payson, but I am not sure what drew him to Ogden, of all places. Lucinda may have had connections there from her stay the previous year, but I do not know that either of them had family members there.

In the book of Utah history, Cecil Alter wrote that David Crockett, after two terms as mayor of Payson...*next past a short interval in Weber River district near Ogden. Sent on scouting expedition to Cache, first settled in Wellsville.*[110]

Alter was probably referring to the end of David's *third* term in 1859, just before the Crocketts moved to Cache Valley. However, there was a scouting expedition to Cache in July of 1856, about when David was in Ogden with Lucinda Ellsworth.

That month Peter Maughan, on the recommendation of Brigham Young, went to explore Cache Valley as a possible site to relocate Maughan's extended family from Tooele. Maughan took a group of explorers to Wellsville, found the place desirable, and then

[110] J. Cecil Alter, *Utah,* Vol. 3. Page 562.

brought his families in September. They were recalled by Brigham Young when the "Utah War" broke out the next year, but eventually returned permanently, opening Cache Valley to permanent colonization, as we shall soon see.

Sometime before 1857 David was back in Payson with Lucinda. He was elected that year to this third term as mayor. It is hard for me to imagine the effect that David's entering polygamy had on the family. As far as I know, none of the family members specifically wrote about it. That was a time when the church was actively encouraging monogamous men, particularly the leaders, to embrace polygamy, and perhaps all or most of the family members were behind it. This seems like a good time to review all the children.

That year Alvin, the oldest child, turned 26. He was very involved in militia work in Payson, having risen to the rank of colonel. He and Sophie had three children by then, ages 1-3.

Sabra and Jasper Wilson had two children. They had moved to San Bernardino with an infant girl and now had another. They never moved back from California.

Roxanna, who was the same age as her father's new wife, and Charles Arthur Montrose were sealed by Brigham Young personally in his office on April 5, 1857. At the same time Charles was sealed to two additional young women. One was Annie Parkes, age 19, who was working at the time for Brigham Young in the Lion house. He had taken her in as an orphan. After her mother died, Annie came from Derby, England with her father, who died and was buried at sea, leaving her to complete the trip alone at age 17. Charles was also sealed that day to 21 year old Levinah Riste, who had arrived with a widowed mother in 1855.[111] Charles was ordained a member of the 46th Quorum of Seventy on May 17, 1857 by William B. Maxwell and received his temple endowment February 16, 1858 in the Endowment House. He worked as farmer, carpenter, and blacksmith until about 1860, when he and Roxanna moved with Crocketts to Logan.

Malinda was of course still married to the bishop, Charles Brent Hancock. She would turn 20 in 1857 and would have her second child in September. She had become a pleural wife. The bishop married 20 year old Cloe Ann Rawson and 14 year old Rachel Melinda Moore on Valentine's Day in the President Young's office. Both girls had been members of his ward.

[111] These seem to have been marriages of convenience, suggested by Brigham Young himself to give support to the young women. The sealings were documented, but are not mentioned in the personal stories of any of the parties and no children were produced. Levina was married October 3, 1859 to Eli Openshaw in Santaquin while Charles and Roxanna were still living in Payson. Annie Parkes married Martin Littlewood May 7, 1859 in Salt Lake City.

Lucinda, now 19 years old, had married Nathaniel Hawes in 1853. She had her second daughter that May.[112]

The rest of the children were at home. There were six boys between two and 18 years of age and Barbara, age 11. One more girl would join the family. David and Lydia's 15th child, Lydia Mangum Crockett, was adopted. How this happened is somewhat of a mystery. This is what I have learned.

In the spring of 1857 the Church was setting up its cotton mission in Washington County and called several families from Payson to move south. Two of them were Mangam brothers named William and James, and another brother named John was called from Nephi. All of them were called to Cotton Mission. James moved to Washington first, in April of 1857 with the initial settlers, taking his wife Eliza Jane and four kids ages 1-7.

Lydia Mangam was born August 31, 1857 according to Find a Grave. I think Lydia must have been James and Eliza's baby if she was born in Washington, since the other Mangams all came later. James' older brother John Mangam had a 14 year old daughter Rebecca who had married a 37 year old man named Gabe Cooley while they were still living in Nephi on April 2, 1858. John moved his family including Rebecca to Washington County that June. Rebecca bore a baby girl named Winnie the following January 15th. I don't know whether Gabe Cooley came to Washington or not—he has sort of disappeared from history. Five weeks later on February 21, 1859, James Mangam's wife, Eliza Jane died, leaving him with Lydia, who was only 18 months old and the other four kids, now ages 3-9. And here it gets crazy. In August James married his niece Rebecca just six months after Eliza's death. Rebecca was now 15 and had her own baby Winnie, who was only seven months old. My theory is that in addition to the scandal of incest, there was a problem in asking young Rebecca to raise both infants, and the Crocketts were asked to step in and adopt Lydia. Rebecca and James were sealed in the endowment House seven years later on October 9, 1866.

In June of 1857, Parley P. Pratt was murdered while serving a mission in Arkansas. This was the start of dark times in Utah. There developed a renewed feeling of persecution and a growing attitude of defending Zion at all costs.

On July 24, 1857 at the Pioneer Day celebration in Big Cottonwood Canyon it was announced that the U.S. Army had left Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to invade Deseret. In August the Nauvoo Legion was reactivated under Daniel H. Wells, and Brigham Young declared martial law on August 5th. On September 8th, Captain Steward Van Vliet arrived in Salt Lake City to announce the appointment of new "gentile" governor.

[112] This was Celia Flaticia Haws, who was mentioned in Will's letter to Nora in the Prologue, page 13.

The Mountain Meadows Massacre happened on September 11, 1857 about 35 miles north of the cotton mission in Washington. In October the Nauvoo Legion burned down Fort Bridger. Lot Smith burned three Army supply trains trailing the soldiers. Twelve hundred to 2,000 militia were stationed in Echo and Weber Canyons. The Payson militia was among them. I have not been able to determine what role that Alvin Crockett may have played in this.

On October 30th, Brigham Young ordered the San Bernardino saints to return to Utah. Among the several families who did not return was that of Sabra and Jasper. Over the next several months, most Mormon families did return to Utah, some of which relocated in Payson. Among them were Henry Green Boyle, who brought a wagon company from California and Daniel Stark, who had sailed with the Brooklyn to San Francisco in 1847.

On March 23, 1858 Brigham Young announced the "Move South", or "Sebastopol Policy," planning abandon and burn all Mormon holdings in the Salt Lake Valley in defiance of the invading U.S. Army. The Salt Lake Mormons began moving south, re-locating about 30,000 people between March and July. On April 6th President Buchanan offered a pardon if the Mormon's would admit the military and accept territorial government. The army entered Salt Lake on June 26th. They did not leave until 1861 for the Civil War.

According to the Payson chronology posted in David Crockett's memories section of Family Search...*many poor refugees from Salt Lake valley were housed and taken care of in Payson. The people of Payson did their best to provide for the poor. Bishop Charles Brent Hancock planned work projects, so that the poor could work to sustain themselves. First, he decided to open a road into Payson Canyon. Prior to this, the Indians and settlers used the path/road up through Goose Nest Springs, to the southeast of Payson, to get to the canyon. Now, a road was built alongside Peteetneet Creek. The Peteetneet Creek road joined the old road at Burr Mill Flat and led high up the canyon. Bishop Hancock also built a grist mill, known as the "Hancock Mill" that year, at Third South and Second East.*

The pressure of absorbing these refugees led to an ugly and little known chapter of Payson's history, which involved the Crockett family that year, and then came back to trouble them decades later. Here is the story as nearly and as fairly as I can reconstruct it.

One of the refugee families was Hannah Jones with her son Henry aged 24 and a five year old daughter named Ellen. There was also a boy named John, age 16, who may not have been related to them. Mayor David Crockett had given them a lot upon which to locate, and they were given provisions, poles, and posts to construct a dugout in the hill. Rumors were swirling around town that Ellen had been a product of incest.

On April 23, 1858, just a month or so after the family had arrived, a local youth confessed that he and several other young men in Payson including Henry Jones had been plotting to steal the community's horses and sell them to the U.S. Army troops who were moving to occupy Salt Lake City. The horses were at the time being corralled together at night and guarded by the local militia to provide security against Indian raids. That particular night Alvin Crockett had been assigned to guard duty.

George Hancock and a few other men went to arrest the boys. In the process, gunfire erupted between the militia and the would-be horse thieves, and Henry Jones was shot and killed as he was fleeing toward Pond Town. His body was left on the ground and the group returned to the Jones dugout, where his mother was shot in front of little Ellen and the house was pulled down. As a local historian wrote, *and thus the scenes of her pollutions became her grave.*[113] The boy named John had fled and was never heard of again. In August 1858 George Hancock was elected constable of Payson.

The back story behind the event is also very interesting.[114] Hannah Jones was born Hannah Gailey in Herefordshire, England in 1808. After having a baby out of wedlock, she married John Jones in 1833 and Henry was born the next year. Hannah and her family were members of the United Brethren, the Methodist congregation which was converted *en masse* to Mormonism by Wilford Woodruff in 1840. Hannah, her mother, and two siblings were among the very first to be baptized that March. There is no record that her husband John Jones was baptized, and they soon split up. She was living with her mother in the 1841 census. Hannah bore another son named George in May 1841.

In 1843 Hannah and her two boys emigrated with her mother and siblings to Nauvoo. Little George died on the trip. Hannah and 17 year old Henry eventually arrived in Salt Lake City in 1851, where she married Jacob B. Hatch. This marriage did not work out, and they were divorced on August 14, 1855. The divorce document states that...*Jacob Hatch did on the thirteenth day of August A.D. in Great Salt Lake County 1855 assault and beat the said deponent and also threaten to kill her. She says she has just cause to fear and does fear that the said Jacob Hatch will carry his threats into execution by killing her or doing her great bodily injury.* That happened just one day before the divorce.

It is a fact that Jacob Hatch actually killed his first wife, Elizabeth Wilde. The story is that he accidentally shot her in the dark and confusion while the house was being raided by a mob in a town near Council Bluffs in October 1847. However, there was hardly anyone in that

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[113] Madoline C. Dixon, *Tales of Peteetneet,* Press Publishing Limited, Provo, Utah, 1998, Page 2. This sad story is also mentioned in Orson F. Whitney, *History of Utah,* 1892, Volume One, Page 710 and Franklin W. Young, *A Record of the Early Settlement of Payson* on microfilm at the Salt Lake City Family History Library.

[114] Most of this I have put together from the stories and data in FamilySearch.com. The best summary is in the Memories section of Hannah Gailey (LC3N-FNL).

area but Mormons, and no mob activity. And although the couple had three unmarried teenage children at the time, evidently the deed was not witnessed by anyone. Jacob Hatch married another woman just one month later, a Mormon widow, who probably traveled with him to Salt Lake City in 1849, but apparently left him immediately, two years before he met Hannah.

Interestingly, at the time of the murders, Jacob Hatch was not in Salt Lake. He was actually living four miles from Payson in Pond Town with his adult son Isaac Hatch. Perhaps when Henry was shot down running in that direction, he had been seeking refuge with his estranged stepfather.

I have wondered where the rumor of the incest came from, given that Hannah Jones had been in Payson little more than a month when she was killed. It seems to me that the most likely informant would have been her estranged husband, Jacob Hatch. Perhaps his enraged attack on her in 1855 which led to the divorce was also related to the charge of incest.

After the killings, the extremely distraught five year old Ellen was taken to live with Hatch. By the time of the 1860 census they had moved out of his son Isaac's house and were living together in Payson. Jacob Hatch was then 81 years old.

Lydia Lovera Crockett was born to Alvin and Mary in Payson on October 21st, their fourth child.

In the winter of 1859, John T. Hardy, the postmaster became Mayor. David Crockett was elected to be an alderman.

The new territorial government in Utah was intent on establishing a legal system that was separate from the Mormon Church. In Washington it was widely felt that pioneer justice was erratic and slanted toward the interests of the Mormons. Indeed, vigilante justice or lynching was often the norm in Utah. I have read that there were more extrajudicial executions in Utah during the nineteenth century than legal ones.

A non-Mormon attorney named John Cradlebaugh was appointed Associate Justice to the District Court in Utah on June 4, 1858. In March 1859 he organized a grand jury in Provo to investigate the Mountain Meadows massacre and several other unsolved murders in the territory, including the Jones family, trying to make the Mormon Church responsible.

James Pace and many others were called to testify, but the jury declined to return any indictments or even deliver a report on the charges.[115]

In April 1859 the earliest Logan settlers arrived from the nearby Providence settlement in Cache Valley, fording the Logan River where River Heights now is and camped near the present site of the old Deseret Mill. If Cecil Alter's account is correct, that David Crockett was the first settler to cross the Logan River, it must have happened then. Alter wrote that David...*arrived on the site of the present city of Logan two hours in advance of the first overland train of settlers--the first man to visit the site of the now beautiful and progressive little city. Here he established residence in 1859 and became one of the leaders in establishing and upbuilding the town and in all community affairs, including those of the local Church of Latter Day Saints.*

It is not clear to me exactly when David had finished settling both of his families in Logan. He and Lucinda had a baby boy named William Alfred who was born on January 6, 1858 in Payson. Their second child was a girl named Lydia Luthenia. All sources give her birthday as September 18, but differ on the year and the location. Most give the year as 1859 and some give Logan and some give Payson as the place. I think it was 1860 in Logan because she was not listed with her mother and brother in the 1860 census in Logan, which was recorded in July. If she had been born in Logan in September 1859, that would have settled the issue of David's arrival.

I suspect that David moved Lucinda to Logan first, and then Lydia with her remaining children, but all of them before the end of 1859. Not all of Lydia's children made the move, of course, since several were married and had their own priorities.

As mentioned, Sabra and her husband had moved permanently to California several years earlier.

Roxanna and Charles Montrose did move with their four children to Logan. The time of the move is uncertain, but it had to be weeks or months before March 7, 1860. Charles had gone back to Payson in the winter of 1860 to attend to his property there. He never returned, dying that day of erysipelas, a bacterial infection of the skin, at the age of 29.

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[115] George and Charles Hancock and Alvin Crockett were arrested for conspiracy 31 years later and brought before another grand jury for this lynching. (See pages 103-4). Charles and Alvin were discharged when the jury failed to indict them. George was convicted of second degree murder when Ellen identified him as the man who shot her mother. Tragically, Ellen and her 18 month baby were murdered in Salem (Pond Town) in 1891, a year after the trial.

Lucinda Crockett and her husband Nathaniel Haws were also part of the move to Logan. They took three girls ages 1-5. Nathaniel's biography states that he and Lucinda arrived in 1859.

Edwin was not married at the time of the move, and went to Logan as a 20 year old member of David and Lydia's household. The five younger children all went to Logan with the family as well. Enos Samuel Crockett, Lydia's 13th baby, had died in 1857 at the age of about two.

In the early spring of 1860 Alvin Crockett moved his family to Logan from Payson, also responding to the call of Brigham Young. Although we have no specific dates for the move of either Alvin's or David's families, it appears to me that Alvin was the last of the Crocketts to arrive in Logan. He took his wife Sophia, their three year old daughter Mary Sophia, their sons Alvin David age six, Ozro age four, and two year old Lydia.

By the time of the 1860 census, the only Crockett family members listed in Payson were Wilford Woodruff Crockett and Malinda. Wilford was living with his brother-in-law Calvin Reed, having just married Calvin's 15 year old daughter Mary Mahala. The couple soon moved to Pond Town, later to Grass Valley, and finally to Arizona.

Malinda stayed in Payson until her divorce from Charles Hancock in 1865. She later married Benjamin Bromley Alvord from Ogden and settled in Brigham City for the rest of her life.

LOGAN

In 1833 a party of fur trappers excavated a path for their wagon through a steep bank on Summit Creek near present day Smithfield, Utah. The place was then called Willow Valley for the very reason you would imagine. The trappers used the opportunity to bury a cache there of a couple of cannons, blacksmith tools, picks, shovels, muskets, ammunition, and whiskey, which they put into a box made from one of their wagon beds and covered with the dirt they had removed. Unfortunately, in the process they produced a landslide that killed one of them.[116] Thereafter the place was known as Cache Valley.

In October 1849, Captain Howard Stansbury explored the Cache Valley as a part of his mapping of ancient Lake Bonneville, suggesting that it would be an ideal place for an army post for wintering cattle. He reported that to Brigham Young, who had already sent a group of explorers there in August of 1847, shortly after their arrival in the Salt Lake Valley.

In 1855, following a serious draught in the Salt Lake and Utah Valleys, Brigham Young was looking for good cattle grazing areas and sent 2,500 cattle of the church herd and of his own to Cache Valley via Sardine Canyon in July and August. His drovers fenced a field of 100 acres called Elkhorn Ranch around a spring, building several cabins and stacking 200 tons of hay. Unfortunately, the next winter was severe and killed about half of the cattle, according to Heber C. Kimball.

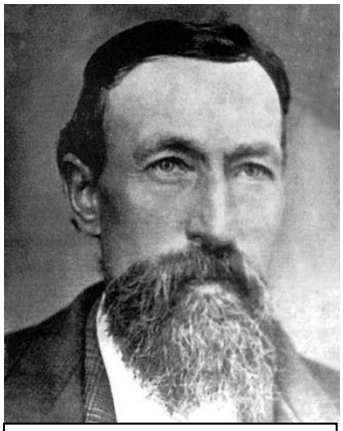
Early in 1856, a group of settlers from Tooele led by Peter Maughan had approached Brigham Young to reassign them to a more desirable location, and on July 21st, he sent Maughan to look over Cache valley. Maughan chose a location in the south end of the valley, and by September seven families had moved there, building two rows of cabins facing each other fort-style as a defense against Indians. By the end of 1857, Maughan's Fort had expanded to thirteen cabins, just in time for the group to be called back to Willard in response to the "Utah War."

By April of 1859, the confrontation with the U.S. government had resolved and Maughan and his group returned to their fort with 30 families, renaming it Wellsville after Daniel H. Wells for his role in the recent "war," and creating a rendezvous point for a flood of colonists sent later that year by Brigham Young to found most of the current towns in the Cache Valley including Logan, Providence, Mendon, Franklin, Richmond, and Smithfield. In November of 1859 Brigham Young sent Orson Hyde and Ezra T. Benson to Cache Valley to organize church units and to name the towns. The whole valley was booming. In 1860 appeared Providence, Millville, Franklin, and Hyde Park. By then, Wellsville had a large log

[116] Joel Edward Ricks, The Beginnings of Settlement in Cache Valley, Twelfth Annual Faculty Research Lecture Utah State Agricultural College, 1953, page 7.

schoolhouse and a brass band. That year an irrigation system was developed for the entire valley along with the first sawmill and gristmill.

Edward W. Smith was selected as teacher in Logan's first public school in January. By March 1860 Logan contained 100 houses. That month the Apostle Ezra T. Benson moved there to direct church affairs and built a large house. The county seat was moved from Wellsville to Logan. Peter Maughan moved to Logan to be the stake president.



Alvin Crockett

That spring was when Alvin Crockett moved his family to Logan from Payson at the order of Brigham Young. His father's family was already there, as well as the families of several of Alvin's siblings. Alvin's family at the time consisted of his pregnant wife Mary Sophia, their seven year old daughter with the same name, Alvin, Ozro, and Lydia, ages five, three, and one, and Sophia's mother Delia Deliverance Byam Curtis. They built a three room log house in the northwest part of Logan near where the Benson school was later built. The new baby, whom they named Delia, was born in October and was said to be the second non-Indian girl born in Logan.

The U.S. census was tallied as of July 31, 1860. Reported living in Logan were Alvin Crockett, a 21 year old farmer residing with his wife Mary S. age 26 and four children: Mary S., age seven, Alvin age 5, Ozias (Ozro), age three, and Lydia, age one, still living in the small log home. They lived only four doors down from Hezekiah Thatcher's cabin. He was a merchant who had brought an extended family to Logan from California when Brigham Young called back the extended colonies in 1857. At that time he had earned enough from the gold miners that he was regarded the richest man in Utah aside from Brigham Young. Both Alvin and Hezekiah would later build fine houses in Logan. Alvin and Sophia's next child Delia was born in October. She was said to have been the second white girl born in Logan.

Barbara Young Crockett at 16

Only a few houses away lived David Crockett's family. David was also listed as a farmer, age 53, living with Lydia age 48 and the six children listed at the end of the previous chapter. The oldest girl at home at the time was Barbara, age 16. In the same household was a 23 year old named Lucinda, born in Vermont. As it was written in the census, her last name looks like Moss. (with a period, as if abbreviated.) I cannot account for the name, nor the birth place, but this must be David's second wife, Lucinda Ellsworth, who was born in New York. The census listed with her a three year old boy named Wm. A., who had to be their son William Alfred. It must have been uncomfortable for ten people in that cabin of which two were polygamist wives. Lucinda's

obituary stated that she was one of the first women to settle in Cache Valley, and that she resided for a long time in a wagon box!

When he was able, David built a fine house for each of the women, at the latest by the time of the 1870 census.

About that time Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States. The country was in a political uproar and on December 20th, South Carolina seceded from the union.

I could find little information on the early years that the two Crockett families spent in Logan. On December 28, 1862 Alvin and Lydia had their sixth child, Nora Ellen. Her life story, which is told in part one of this book, chronicles the rest of the story of the Crocketts in Logan. Rather than duplicating, I would like to just touch on a few events that were not recounted there.

As mentioned in Nora's chapter, Alvin's term as Logan's first mayor began March 5, 1866. That summer on July 10th a very high flag pole was erected as a means of communication for the community. It was placed on the southeast corner of the temple lot, near the corner of 100 north and 300 east. This was referred to as the Liberty Pole. A white flag meant that the residents were to be watchful and stand by in case of trouble. If a red flag ever flew, it meant danger and the men were to take their guns and gather immediately.

On November 28, 1866 Alvin took a second wife, Annie Naomi Peel.[117]

On January 15, 1867 the Deseret Telegraph Company completed 500 miles of wire which connected Logan on the north to St. George on the south.

Annie's first child, Annie Althea, was born September 22, 1867, and on February 10, 1868, Sophia bore William Joseph Crockett.

According to David Crockett's obituary, it was sometime in 1869 that he suffered a paralytic stroke...*which somewhat impaired his body and mind.* He would have been around 63 years old at that time.

In September of 1869 during the time that Alvin was serving as sheriff of Cache County, he was on an errand with Ezra T. Benson when the Mormon Apostle unexpectedly died. I will paraphrase an article from the *Deseret News* published September 8, 1869. The headline was: EZRA T. BENSON DIES IN THE PRESENCE OF BR. CROCKETT.

Ezra T. Benson

The two men were in Ogden to meet with Lorin Farr and Chauncey West regarding a large contract with the Central Pacific Railroad. Many prominent Mormons had contracted for the grading of the

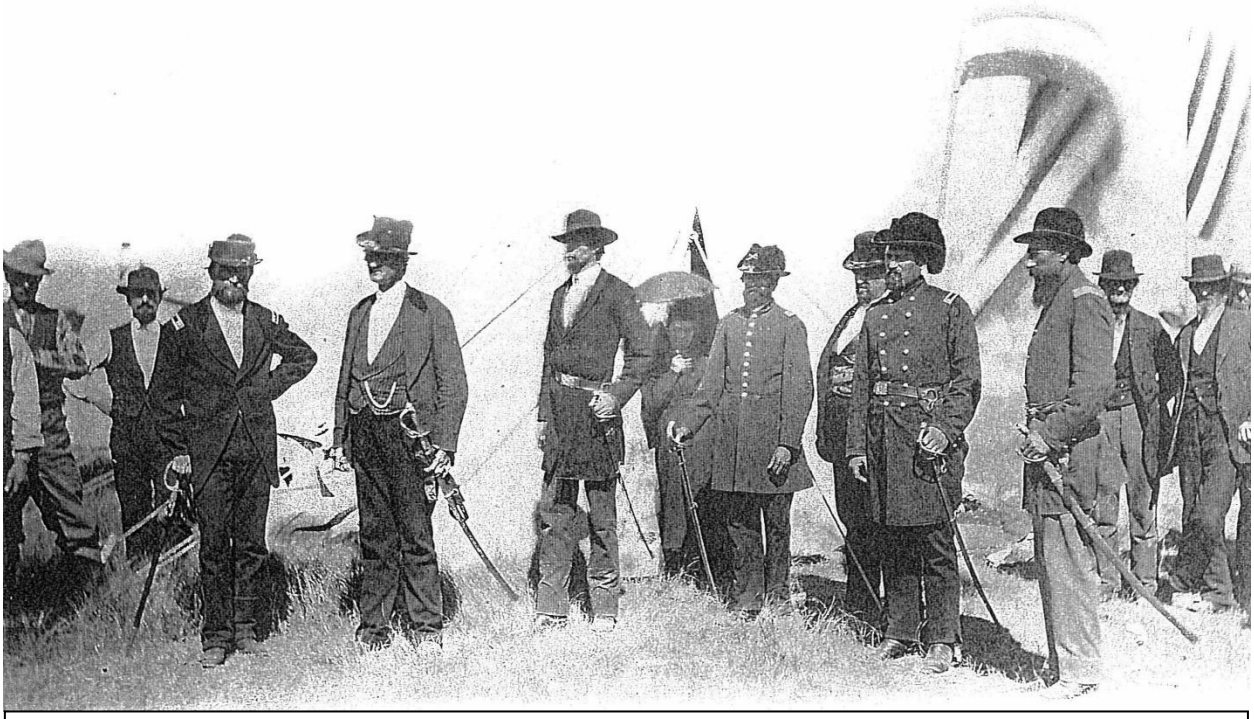
[117] Annie's story is told in Nora's' chapter. See page 25.

track lines, which had been joined at Promontory Point the previous May, and I suspect they were working on a way to collect for their efforts.

Elder Benson, accompanied by Brother Crockett, left Logan Thursday late afternoon. Friday they left Wellsville to dine with Lorenzo Snow in Brigham City in the afternoon. One of (Benson's) horses got colic on the way to Ogden. They arrived at (Stake) President Farr's at six pm. He (Benson) bled his sick horse, lifted a little boy onto it, and then left the barn with Brother Crockett and Father Ephraim Turner to go to Brother Farr's house. While on his way, he fell on his right side, his head to the north, struck Brother Turner on the leg. He turned on his back, breathed about four times, when pulsation ceased. Brother Crockett said that on the way to Ogden he seemed to enjoy life.

According to the website of the modern Cache County sheriff's office, Alvin Crockett became the county sheriff in the year 1865 and served in that office until 1882. He also served as Logan city marshal and chief of police. Some of that time must have been during his terms as county sheriff. Some family historians have written that he was sheriff for 21 years. This is not correct, although he could have been involved in law enforcement for that long. The choice of Alvin for sheriff was probably related to his prior service as an officer of the militia in Payson.

Alvin continued his militia work in Logan. This photograph was taken in 1870 when Alvin was 39 years old. He was the commanding Colonel.



Alvin is the commanding officer, far right on the front row.

Alvin and Sophia had another daughter, whom they named Roxana, on April 19, 1870.

The Logan census that year showed that Alvin's two wives were living in adjacent houses in the Logan second ward. David's daughter Roxanna was married to her second husband, Philander Cranney. She would later divorce him.

On April 18, 1871, Sophia's mother Delia Deliverance Byam died in Alvin's home at the age of 81. On November 29th Alvin was set apart for his brief mission to the Fox Islands. A daughter named Delia Sophia Crockett was born to his wife Annie just two days after that. I hope that he had not yet departed on his mission. And I suspect that Alvin's mother Lydia stood by as Annie's midwife.

This was a busy time for Lydia Crockett, with her midwife work. She was the first midwife in Cache Valley and was said to have one of the best of them. According to historian Ruth Smith, *Mrs. Crockett was the most successful and widely known midwife of her time. She did not stay exclusively with maternity cases, but spent a lot of her time nursing out when any disease was prevalent.*[118]

The first railroad connection to Logan was established January 31, 1873.

Two weeks later, on February 14th, David Crockett's 24 year old namesake son, David William Crockett, was shot and killed by Charles Benson, the wayward son of the late apostle, Ezra T. Benson.[119] A Logan mob forcibly removed Benson from his cell at the county courthouse and lynched him. By this time, Logan's population had grown to 2,033 people with a police force of 11 men.

Alvin was well known, appearing many times in the newspapers including in Salt Lake City. I was able to find him mentioned 264 times, not only in reference to this infamous lynching, but also regarding his many activities as sheriff and for running for other political offices. For example, he was mentioned when he was re-elected sheriff in 1875, when he delivered a convicted rapist to prison in Salt Lake City, and when he was sustained a member of the Logan Stake High Council. In addition to his political and law enforcement careers, Alvin contributed in many ways. He was a contractor and a builder. The last two houses that he built for his two families are still standing in Crockett Lane in Logan, and he built for others. He was the contractor for the first long dugway in Logan canyon. With his father David, he worked for a decade bringing stone from Logan Canyon for the temple and helped with the temple's construction.

During these years several more children were born in Alvin's two families. These are chronicled in Nora's chapter.

On April 12, 1876 the family patriarch, David Crockett died. He had never fully recovered from his stroke seven years earlier, and for the previous three years or so had seldom left his house. But according to his obituary, he had been able to visit every one of his children

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[118] Ruth Smith, *History of Disease and Medical Care in Cache Valley, Utah,* Chapter III, Growth and Advancement in Medical Care and Control of Disease 1860, Page 9. Special Collections Utah State University.

[119] The details of that murder and lynching can be found in Nora's story, pages 25-26.

on the day of his death, *as if being impelled by some power...little conscious that his end was near.*

Lydia would live for another twelve years. She was an invalid during the latter years, under the care of Alvin's wife Sophia. But I believe that she pursued her career in midwifery as long as she was able to help. She is said to have brought more than a thousand babies into the world, usually taking her pay in trade such as a side of bacon, dry beans, or corn. One biography said that when people began moving out of Logan into southern Idaho, Lydia extended her practice into the Gentile Valley. She would sometimes ride a horse or take a horse and buggy, depending upon the weather. But perhaps her greatest accomplishment was the bearing and raising of fourteen children of her own.

The story of Alvin's family during the following decade is told in detail in section one of this book. His wife Sophia, who had been the youngest child in her family, became much more involved with her siblings and her family in Payson during that time, always worrying, and often visiting them when sick. Alvin rarely wrote letters, at least to Nora, so much less is known of his family activities during this period.

Around the end of 1885 the persecution of polygamists was becoming heated throughout Utah and Idaho. On December 26, 1885 Alvin said in a rare letter to his daughter Nora, that the district judges were doing all they could to bring an end to polygamy, and that they would soon be turning their attention to Logan. But it was not until around November 28, 1886 that things got hot for Alvin. Sophia wrote that day...y*our Father is fixing to go to meeting--the deps are not in town today. George has been to Ogden and got back the same day. They wanted him to answer questions in your Father's case.* That sounds like Alvin was forced to avoid attending church when the deputies were around, and that the government was building a case against him in Ogden. I think "George" refers to Alvin's 20 year old son, George Emer.

Sophia Crockett

On March 3, 1887 the Edmund Tucker Act was passed and the pressure on polygamists increased. On March 17th, Sophie wrote that the deputies were as thick as flies. Alvin's general attitude was that he had nothing to hide, and so he did not disappear into hiding as many other polygamists had done. He did take a prudent trip to Idaho to visit his daughter Nora and her husband Will Ream that September, but he stayed only two or three weeks. He wrote his thanks to them in Dingle on September 30, adding...*I expect to leave in a few days for someplace where there is not so many Deps as there is here.* If he did leave town, it did him no good, for on February 13, 1888 Alvin Crockett was sentenced to four months in prison for polygamy, but was released early for "good behavior." The arrest was reported in the *Deseret News.*

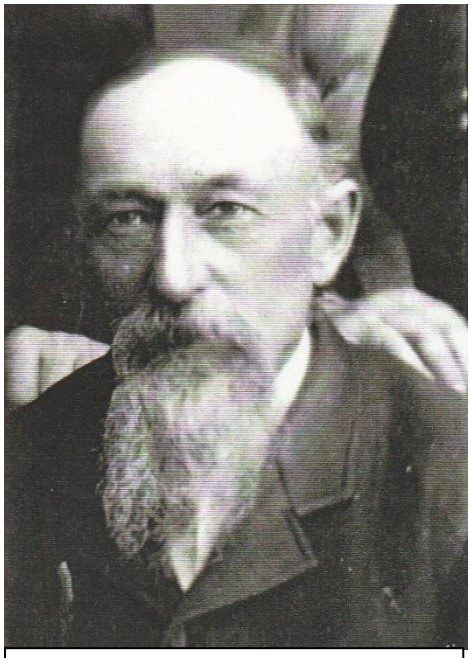
Alvin's mother, Lydia Young Crockett, died on March 11, 1888 while her son Alvin was serving his time in the Utah State Penitentiary. Her death was mentioned in the *Millennial*

Star, which noted that she was...*well known and highly respected for her integrity to the Gospel.* The *Star* said that she had died of old age. She was 75.

On November 22, 1889 a newspaper article on "That '57 Murder" reported that Alvin Crockett and George and Charles Hancock were arrested for conspiracy in the Payson lynching.[120] However the subsequent trial never brought up any discussion of incest. The issue was horse thieving. But 50 year old Hannah Jones had been shot as well as her 24 year old son, who was killed resisting arrest after he escaped from the dugout.[121]

From my reading of the trial transcripts, it appears that Alvin was not a defendant, but merely a fact witness. David Hancock was acquitted, but George Hancock was convicted of second degree murder.

In 1893 Alvin attended the long anticipated dedication of the Salt Lake Temple. According to Sophia...*He said that he had a grand time in the Temple. He was at the dedication two days.*



Alvin Crockett

Utah was granted statehood in 1896 on January 4th.

Alvin's second wife, Annie Naomi Peel died in Logan on March 28, 1898. She had been an invalid for the previous eight years, though she was only 50 years old. My guess is that she died of breast cancer. Just a year later, Alvin's first wife, Sophia Reed, died at the age of 65 of dropsy and kidney disease on June 2, 1899.

Alvin died on July 9, 1902 at his home in Logan. He was 70 years old. He had not been sick but died in the night after complaining of a cramp in his stomach. I believe that he suffered a heart attack.

David and Alvin Crockett produced a prodigious family. I was tempted to add biographies of all their children, but this work has already been done in grand fashion.[122] I am grateful to be one of their descendants, and to have had the time, interest, and resources to tell this story.

[120] Please refer to pages 102-103

[121] The entire story is told on pages 286-288.

[122] Donna Hopkins Scott, *The Crockett Family of Maine, Following Mainly the Descendants of David Crockett, Who Migrated to Utah in 1849. BYU Press, April 1968, Provo, Utah.*

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